

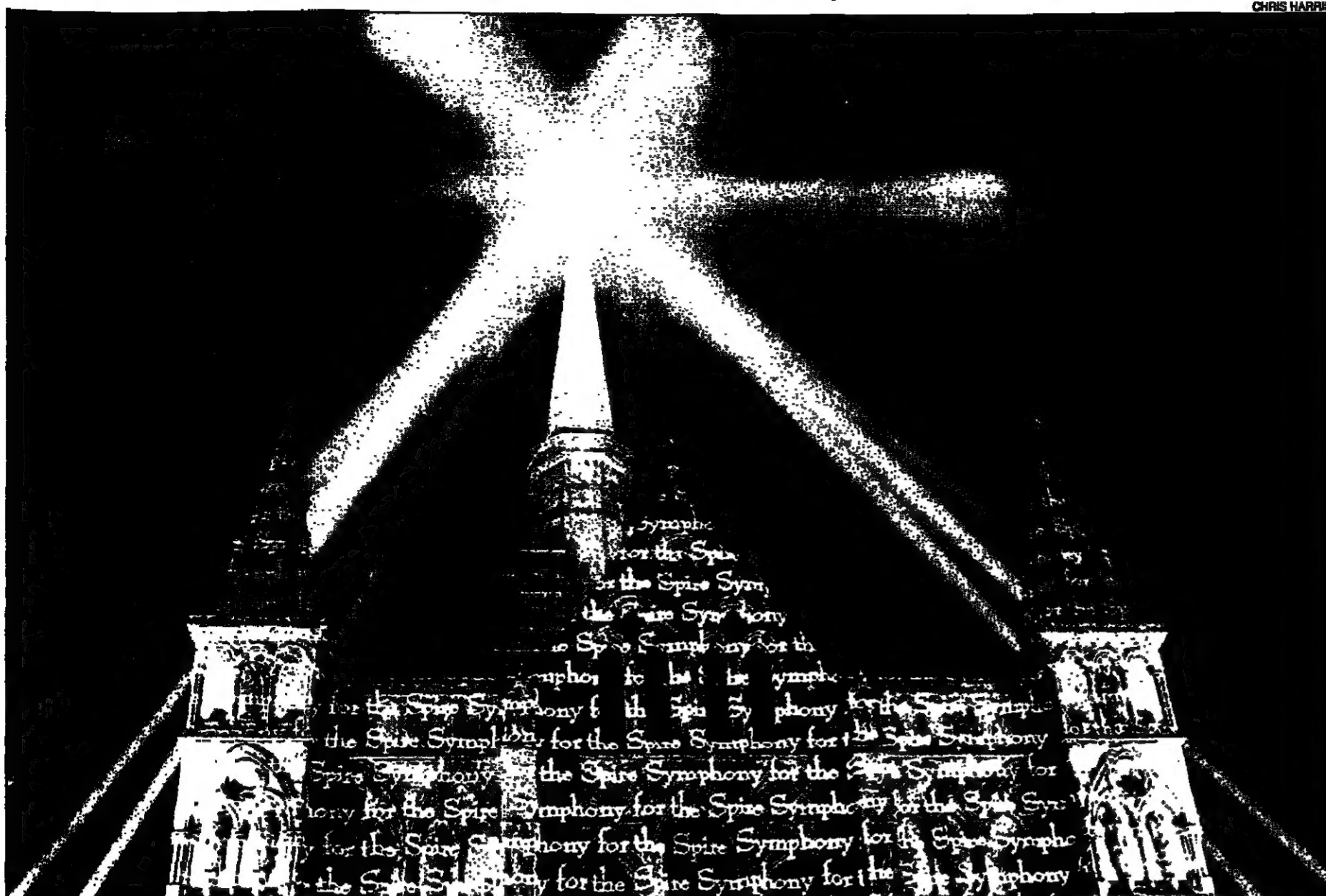


THE TIMES

No 64,118

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1991

40p



Son et lumière: Salisbury cathedral, ablaze with laser light, publicises a fund-raising concert for this evening. More than 200 performers will take part including Plácido Domingo, Charlton Heston, Kenneth Branagh and Phil Collins. The cathedral hopes to raise much of the £1,250,000 needed to restore its spire

Moscow congress votes power to the republics

Soviet Union swept away by Gorbachev

By MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Soviet Union's death warrant was signed by the country's supreme legislature yesterday, paving the way for a new, looser confederation of sovereign states.

The Congress of People's Deputies swept away power structures built up over seventy years at a single stroke, awarding outright victory in the battle for supremacy to the republics.

The union will now be governed by a Council of State, consisting of the state

president and leaders of those republics that choose to participate; an inter-republic economic committee and a two-chamber parliament made up of elected deputies from the republics. The institutions will operate for up to six months while arrangements for a new union are agreed.

President Gorbachev still envisages that a Union Treaty will be signed, but many republics see their future primarily in an economic union. The three Baltic states are expected to be granted their independence by a Council of State decree today.

The restructuring was overwhelmingly endorsed by congress, but only after a dictatorial President Gorbachev had stifled debate. As conservatives resisted the changes, he declared: "If we can't agree on this, the congress ceases its work." Many deputies felt that if congress had not approved the measures, Mr Gorbachev would simply have implemented them by decree.

In the end, the president congratulated deputies, saying: "The congress rose to the occasion in this responsible and, without exaggeration, historic moment in the development of our state."

Outside, the liberal deputy Aleksandr Vladislaviev declared: "We are moving from a great power into a whole new era. The republics have created this absolutely new country." But hardliners were disappointed and frustrated. Colonel Viktor Alksnis, one of the "black colonels" who had approved of army action in

Lithuania in January, said the deputies had betrayed the country and their voters. The voting records would eventually be reviewed and "the traitors" brought to justice.

Only two clauses in the law setting out the new power structure had encountered serious difficulty: that abolishing the old parliament and that saying the congress would not meet again. The first was approved, the second voted down, but Mr Gorbachev did not press the point since the new parliament would have no reason to convene. Deputies will, however, keep their salaries and privileges until the end of their terms in 1994.

The old parliament had included many non-elected deputies and representatives of central institutions, including the Communist party. Most legislative power will

now rest in the upper chamber of the new parliament, which will comprise 20 delegates from each republic other than the Russian Federation. That will have 52, in recognition of the autonomous areas within its territory. Each republic will have only one vote, however, allaying some republics' fears of Russian domination.

Before congress closed, Mr Gorbachev persuaded it to approve a declaration of human rights. Then, in a strange coda to proceedings, the mayor of Leningrad proposed that the body of Lenin be removed from the mausoleum for a decent Christian burial in Leningrad - soon to become St Petersburg. The matter will now be considered by the new parliament, an institution more likely to approve such a step than a conservatively-disposed congress.

Food mission, page 13
Diary, page 16
Leading article and letters, page 17



Alksnis: accused fellow deputies of betrayal

Former BCCI treasurer arrested

By GEORGE SIVELL AND SUSAN ELLICOTT

SYED Ali Akbar, the former treasurer of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International has been arrested in Calais. He has been detained in prison pending a decision on extradition which must be made by the French authorities within 40 days.

After the arrest the American Justice Department revealed an indictment against Mr Ali Akbar, five other BCCI officials, and a reputed

Colombian drug baron, as Garardo Moncada. Only Mr Ali Akbar was in custody, but Mr Naqvi was believed to be in Abu Dhabi and Mr Rizzi in Britain, officials said.

The indictment claimed that the six BCCI officials laundered more than \$4 million in drug proceeds from 1983 to 1989. Mr Ali Akbar, aged 47, has dual British and Pakistani nationalities.

BCCI indictments, page 23



Yugoslav talks jeopardised by heavy fighting

From ROGER BOYES IN ZAGREB

THE European Community delivered its sternest warnings on the conflict in Yugoslavia yesterday, as fighting continued in several Croatian towns. Henry Winjaendts, the EC's emissary, said that the peace talks planned for this weekend would not go ahead unless shooting stopped on all sides.

The Serbian irregulars, still supported in some areas by the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army, have been carrying out attacks throughout Croatia. Diplomats say the campaign is either intended as a last push for territory before the peace conference, or it is an attempt to sabotage the talks entirely.

Mr Winjaendts, who is in Croatia to judge how the EC-brokered ceasefire is holding, echoed the words of Lord Carrington when he said that the conference could not take place while fighting continued. General Veljko Kadijevic, the Yugoslav defence minister, had assured him that the army would not shoot first. Mr Winjaendts said in Zagreb. Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, promised him yesterday that the Croats would shoot only in self-defence.

However, yesterday's bombardment of Vukovar, in east-

ern Croatia, was heavier than at any time in the past three weeks. Yugoslav airforce jets swooped low while both mortar and artillery shells were fired. The Croats claimed later to have destroyed three army tanks. Osijek, which Mr Winjaendts was due to inspect, echoed to gunfire throughout the day and many citizens have spent the past two nights in air raid shelters. The local hospital said that seven people have died and 67 have been wounded in the past two days.

Mr Winjaendts was directing his remarks primarily at the Serbian insurgents, and he hinted that if the peace conference were disrupted a more radical intervention such as a peacekeeping force might be needed.

Continued on page 22, col 3

Serbs flee Bosnia, page 9

Gallup poll gives Tories 4 1/2% lead

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBIN OAKLEY

AN OPINION poll showing the Conservatives with a substantial lead over Labour heightened the electioneering mood last night by providing further evidence that the political tide may have turned.

Attempts by senior Conservatives to calm election speculation founded in the face of the findings of the Gallup survey putting the Tories on 39.5 per cent to Labour's 35 per cent, overturning a five-point Labour lead in the same poll last month. There was also good news for the Liberal Democrats, who moved up 3 per cent to 19.5 per cent. Labour slumped by 6 per cent.

Although the figures would not mean an overall Conservative win the survey published today confirmed and bolstered the trend disclosed by last weekend's Mori poll and boosted those Conservatives who say that John Major should go to the country on November 7 if he believes that he will win.

Mr Major is carefully not closing the door on that option in case all the portents are pointing to a Conservative victory by the time of the Tory party conference next month. The survey involved interviews with more than 1,000 electors between August 24 and September 2 and would therefore have covered the period Mr Major visited President Bush and the Soviet leaders in Moscow. It would not have reflected any benefits from his trip to China and the latest interest rate cut.

The survey, published in *The Daily Telegraph*, was being treated with caution last night, however, because of the sheer volatility of public opinion that it revealed. In the 15 polls taken before last Sunday's Mori survey Labour had an average lead of 5 per cent. Labour MPs believe their only real failing during recent weeks has been a lack of visibility. Labour sources were confidently predicting an improvement when the spotlight is again turned on the domestic and economic agenda after Mr Major completes his round of international travels. "The pendulum can swing back just as quickly," they said. Another complicating factor for the Tories is the fact that the Mori survey put Labour on 39.5 per cent to Labour's 35 per cent, overturning a five-point Labour lead in the same poll last month. There was also good news for the Liberal Democrats, who moved up 3 per cent to 19.5 per cent. Labour slumped by 6 per cent.

Peter Riddell, page 16
Diary, page 16

WEEKEND TIMES



From tomorrow, Saturdays are different. Weekend Times is a new 16-page broadsheet colour section which is much more than an end in itself. Weekend Times is an agenda and a guidebook, full of the best weekend activities and the best ways to enjoy them, whether it be a weekend at Bury House (with or without the horses, above), or a few hours passed in town or country (with or without the children).



And then there are the Japanese. The forthcoming Japan exhibition will tell us a lot about what they do, but exactly what they are up to, and how does it affect us? Joe Joseph gets behind the mask in Weekend Times, which also carries some favourite Times regulars (Paul Heiney, Francis Bissell, Jane MacQuitty) and some thought-provoking irregulars (Me and My Decorator, what's hot and what's not in entertainment).

Weekend Times, the section that completes the complete Saturday newspaper, comes free with *The Times* tomorrow. Be sure to place an order with your newsagent today.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

WALKER: I'LL SUE

George Walker tells *The Times* that he is planning to sue Brent Walker, the company he founded, for £20 million. Pages 23, 25

A NEW VOICE

Peter Riddell, distinguished former economics, political and literary, US editor of the *Financial Times*, joins *The Times* today as political columnist. Page 16

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Telecom gets go-ahead to play numbers game

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ANYONE planning large investments in business cards and office stationery sporting telephone numbers might be advised to hold off for a couple of years. Plans were agreed yesterday to lengthen the nation's telephone numbers by an extra digit to meet the seemingly insatiable demand for telecommunication services.

In 1879, when the first exchange in Britain opened at Coleman Street in London, it had just ten "subscribers". Colonel Croll, for instance, could be reached by simply dialling 7, Cuthill-Son and De Lungo were on 5 and Chubb and Son were reachable by dialling 9. Dialling 1 got you Harvey Brand and Co. When the new codes come into effect, Racial Security, the

inheritors of the Chubb locksmith company, will be obtainable only after dialling 11 digits.

George Chubb, a member of the firm's board of directors, wrote in August 1879 to *The Times* praising the beauty and simplicity of the telephone. Letters over the coming weeks might well carry a different tone amid claims that ten, let alone eleven, digits are more than enough for weary fingers and minds.

The plan, which comes as Londoners are still trying to adjust to the division of the capital into codes of 071 and 081 and as other parts of the country have been experiencing a rash of additional digits, has been approved by the Office of Telecommunications (OfTel). After extensive research, consultation and cost bene-

fit analysis the figure 1 is to be inserted after the 0 of all the nation's existing national codes. Sir Bryan Carlsberg, the director general of telecommunications, said yesterday. From 1994, London is to become 0171 or 0181, Manchester will be 0161, Glasgow 0141 and Little Budworth, Cheshire, now 0829, will become 01829. Local calls stay the same.

Meanwhile, international calls are to be given the James Bond touch with 00 to be added before the code as part of steps towards international harmonisation, it was announced.

OfTel says that without the change many of the new telecommunication services waiting to explode on the market could become restricted for want of numbers, as could basic

telephony services. Several options were examined by OfTel, including exporting numbers from less busy parts of the country which have a surplus of numbers to busier ones and amalgamating some lightly-used national groups of numbers.

However, OfTel believes that simply adding 1 to all national codes will be less disruptive, cheaper and will maintain the geographic identity of household and office telephones. British Telecom, which supports the move, tried to clarify the confusion by saying it was not the amount of potential telephone numbers that was running short but the number of codes needed to support the anticipated

Continued on page 22, col 1

Leading article, page 17

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محکمات الاصل

Cut-price bargains put a brake on rapid decline in car sales

AUGUST CAR SALES



The top ten cars sold

Make	No. sold
1 Ford Fiesta	(26,055)
2 Ford Escort	(24,886)
3 Vauxhall Cavalier	(20,951)
4 Vauxhall Astra	(17,575)
5 Ford Sierra	(15,412)
6 Rover 200 series	(15,212)
7 Vauxhall Nova	(13,558)
8 Rover Metro	(13,558)
9 Peugeot 205	(13,288)
10 Volkswagen Golf	(10,875)

HUGE price discounting, costing car makers up to £100 million, slowed the accelerating loss of sales in the motor industry last month. The industry, led by Ford and Vauxhall, started schemes to cut prices by as much as £2,000 a car to stem the effects of the recession, which has seen sales fall dramatically over the past two years.

Sales in August were 367,646, 15.1 per cent down on August 1990, when about 432,000 cars were sold. In the first eight months of this year, sales were down by almost 22 per cent. With an announcement by Nissan that it is to recruit 1,000 new workers at its plant in Washington, Tyne

and Wear, the figures offered hope that the depression in the industry may be lifting. Government ministers were starting to worry that the collapse in new car sales might postpone investment in the industry. But Nissan confirmed it would go ahead with plans to make a second model, the Micra, alongside the Primera mid-range car, from next year.

August is the most important month of the year, when about a fifth of annual sales are made as motorists chase the prestige of the new registration letter, this year the J-registration plate. Heavy discounting seems to have attracted customers who

The motor industry sees hope in August's figures, but analysts question the cost of heavy discounting, Kevin Eason writes

might have been delaying their purchasing decision. Kevin Morley, Rover's commercial managing director, said: "There is evidence that customers were holding back during the year because of the uncertainty in the economy, but they felt that they must buy now because the offers on some models were so desirable."

The question is how much it is has cost the car makers to attract customers. Analysts

were speculating yesterday that the industry could have ploughed £100 million into its sales efforts. Vauxhall said its cashback scheme, in which buyers received a cheque for up to £1,500, would cost about £8 million.

Ford, Britain's biggest car firm, is thought to have spent much more on discounts and advertising. The play did not work, with Ford sales falling from 105,341 in August last year to 80,102 this year, and

its market share dipping from 24.34 per cent to 21.79 per cent, even though the company was offering as much as £1,000 off its best-selling models and £2,000 off Granadas.

Vauxhall saw its market share remain almost constant at 13.18 per cent, and sales dip only marginally from 58,000 in 1990 to 55,806. Peugeot Talbot sales increased from 23,642 to 28,058, the second highest sales month recorded by the company.

Rover, which refused to join the price war, saw its sales drop about 19 per cent, to 46,327. There was a boost, however, in the performance of its Land Rover division, which achieved its best

monthly sales performance of 3,681 vehicles.

Doug Henderson, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said: "Any attempt by the government to claim a 15 per cent drop shows signs of recovery after the recent 30 per cent falls will be dismissed by the industry. Such a claim shows just how weak manufacturing has become in the UK and just how desperate the Tories are to conceal the damage they have done."

Union leaders said that the remaining three months of the year could prove difficult, leading to further jobs losses and falling profits.

John Allen, chairman of the motor industry trade unions'

Campaign for the Defence of the Motor Vehicle, said: "The figures are still down dramatically, and that is disappointing."

Campaign leaders have appealed for the government to scrap the 10 per cent special tax on cars. Mr Allen said that the motor industry contributed £20 billion a year to the Exchequer: more than twice as much as taxes on tobacco and alcohol combined. It had been likened as an easy tax option, and had become "the convenient whipping boy of the so-called environmentalists and the scapegoat for government indifference".

Motoring, page 32

Rail chiefs lure customers with millions of free trips

By PAUL WILKINSON

BRITISH Rail is offering up to 21 million free trips on its InterCity trains to help to stimulate off-peak use of the network. They will be tied to a two-for-the-price-of-one ticket deal using vouchers given away in Boots stores.

The promotion is the main plank of InterCity's revised autumn timetable, which BR says provides its best long-distance rail travel service to date. It is made possible by the completion of the InterCity 225 electrification programme of the east coast route to Scotland, releasing high-speed

125 diesel trains for use on other lines.

The announcement comes less than a month after the government's rail watchdog group, the Central Transport Consultative Committee, said that cuts in passenger services were expected unless the government made up a £400 million drop in BR's revenue. John Pridoux, managing director of InterCity, said: "We're not just maintaining levels of services, but are making major improvements across the network."

Launching the promotion

scheme in Newcastle upon Tyne yesterday, David Shilton, InterCity's leisure travel marketing manager, said that Boots had been chosen to reach as wide a public as possible. "We are confident it will win many new customers to our network."

Shoppers who spend £5 or more at any of the 1,000 Boots stores during the eight weeks from next Wednesday will receive a voucher that can be swapped for two saver or supersaver tickets for the price of one. BR says that it is giving

away 21 million vouchers, and although it expects only two million people to take up the offer, 11 million seats are being put aside.

The vouchers will be valid for journeys from mid-September until the end of March, except for a five-week period covering Christmas and the New Year.

For the first time the full BR fleet of 31 InterCity 225 electric locomotives will be available to work the east coast line from King's Cross to York, the North-East and Scotland. A twice-daily Pullman service to Edinburgh will cut the journey to London to just under four hours. Several trains will continue on to Glasgow.

The 225 will also give a faster time between the capital and Newcastle upon Tyne. The journey time of 2hr 35min is claimed by BR to be faster, centre-to-centre, than by air. On the west coast all services will now use air-conditioned rolling stock and 125s will operate into North Wales for the first time. Times from London to Holyhead should be reduced by 30 minutes.

Council leaders in Shropshire are planning to lobby BR and Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, over BR's decision to cut direct InterCity trains between Shrewsbury and London, which they say could put many jobs at risk.

Pre-war hero had harder ride

WHATEVER rail commuters might think of local services, travelling long distance by train today is a great deal more pleasant than it was in the heyday of the railways between the wars (Paul Wilkinson writes).

Almost invariably it is a great deal quicker, undoubtedly more comfortable and surprisingly similar in cost in real terms.

When Richard Hannay fled north for that epic scramble on the Forth Bridge in *Thirty-Nine Steps*, it took his LNER express seven-and-a-half hours to reach Edinburgh. From next week a Pullman with limited stops will reach the Scottish capital in almost

QUICKER BY RAIL

(1991 prices for single fare, 1st class from London)

	BRISTOL	EDINBURGH	BIRMINGHAM	MANCHESTER
1935	1hr 45min £24.84	7hr 30min £105.07	2hr 10min £21.40	3hr 15min £21.74
1991	1hr 28min £39.00	3hr 55min £61.00	1hr 35min £24.50	2hr 25min £27.50

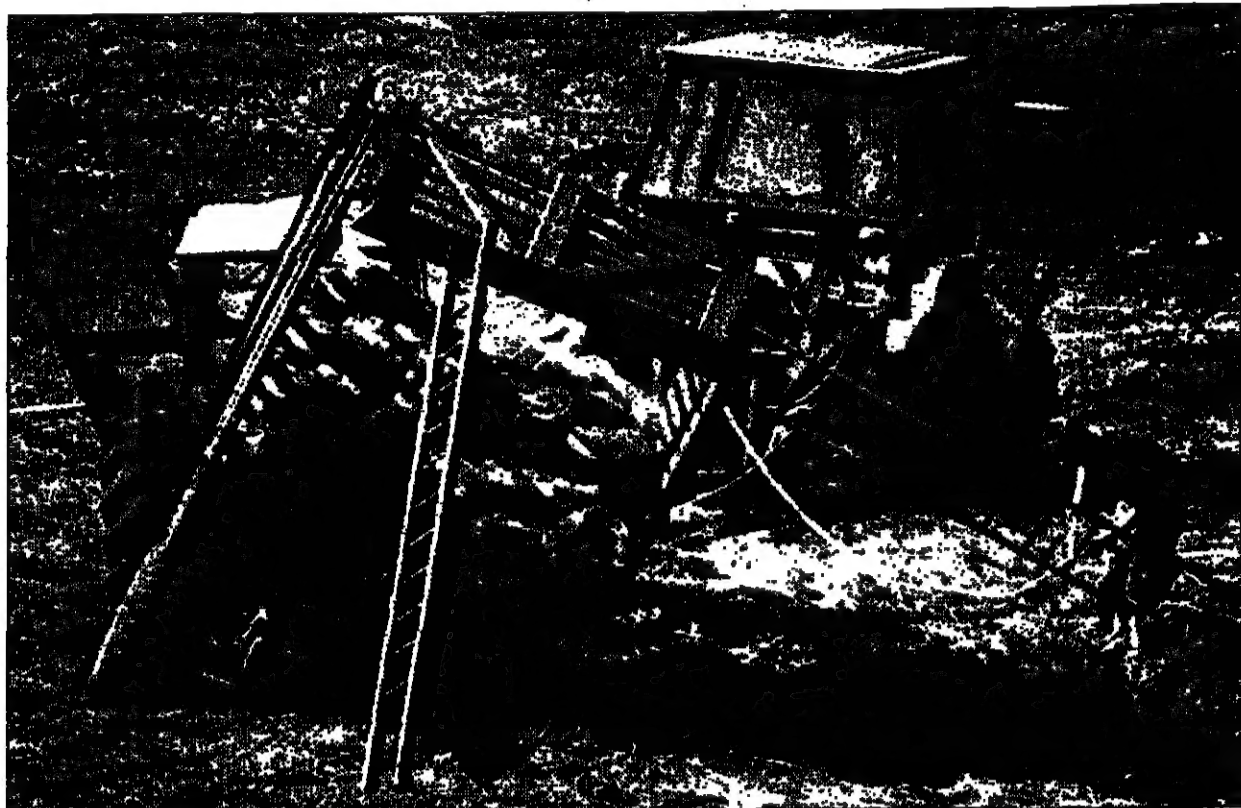
1935 figures source: National Railway Museum, York. 1991 figures source: British Rail.

half the time while a routine 225 electric will do the journey in about four hours.

Had Hannay gone first class his single fare of £4 2s, which in today's terms is equal to slightly more than £106, would have been considerably

more than today's one-way fare of £81.

Paddington to Bristol, however, has hardly changed. In 1935, the best journey time was 1hr 45min. Now the fastest time is about 15 minutes less.



Death-trap: army bomb-disposal experts examine the trailer carrying the 6,000lb device destined for a border post

IRA's biggest bomb attack foiled

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE father of a Protestant family held at gunpoint by an IRA unit planning to detonate the largest explosive device assembled in Northern Ireland described yesterday how it was going to use one of his sons as a human bomb.

The man, who was not named, was speaking as army technical experts began dismantling the 8,000-pound bomb, which was discovered early on Wednesday in fields near the Annaghmarin army border checkpoint in Co Fermanagh.

The IRA abandoned the bomb after the tractor-trailer in which it was being transported became stuck in a field

about half a mile from the heavily-fortified base.

The father, whose family was one of three held captive, said the IRA took his eldest son and daughter, both in their twenties, to where the tractor-trailer was waiting. "When they got round there it was then the eldest boy realised that he was going to be used as a human bomb. By good luck, the trailer had sunk and couldn't be taken out, so they had to abandon the whole thing."

It is thought the IRA was planning to use the girl as a hostage and would have threatened to kill her if the man had not carried out their

instructions. It was not clear whether he was to have been strapped into the tractor cab or be beaten on the legs to stop drivers escaping.

The local Church of Ireland minister, who visited the families after their ordeal, praised their bravery. Canon Edwy Kille criticised "lax security" on the southern side of the border. He said it was alarming that such a large-scale operation could have been mounted undetected by Irish police, and called for the Irish government to set up border checkpoints.

The IRA also launched an improvised grenade and car bomb attack on a central

Belfast police station yesterday morning. No serious injuries were reported. Police said a small device was thrown at Donegal Pass station at about 10.50am. Soon afterwards a bomb exploded in a car parked at the side of the building.

Meanwhile, central Belfast was seriously disrupted last night after warnings that incendiary devices had been left in city centre stores.

Police also seized a cache of sophisticated arms when they raided a farm outhouse south of the Ulster border yesterday. The raid followed a tip-off and is the second find in two days in the same area.

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Docklands rail 'inadequate'

By PETER VICTOR

THE government is committed to transport services in London's Docklands, Roger Freeman, the public transport minister, said yesterday.

After a tour of Docklands this week, Mr Freeman said the Docklands Light Railway service was unacceptable at present. "It is unreliable. It must be got right."

The City airport in the Royal Docks was under used, he said, but the results of a public enquiry into proposals to expand the airport were expected soon. Extension of the Jubilee Underground line

into the air and completion of most of the area's new road networks over the next two years would ease jams.

The airport's management has applied to extend its runway and for approval to operate BAe146 jets to expand the range of destinations it can offer. Inspectors' recommendations after a public enquiry into this and the East London River Crossing, a bridge across the Thames to the east of the airport, have been sent to the transport and environment ministries.

Mr Freeman said the completion of two big road projects - the Limehouse Link and the Lower Lea Crossing - would free roads congested by traffic trying to reach developments on the Isle of Dogs. "Building development on the Isle of Dogs outstripped the infrastructure. That was inevitable. Infrastructure is now catching up."

He called for greater use of river bus services along the Thames but said the £2.40 fare between Charing Cross and the Isle of Dogs was too high.

Leading article, page 17

Hotels group decides on no-go areas for children

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN, especially other people's, have probably wrecked more holidays this year than the weather, disappointing food or uncooperative fellow guests.

Complaints about the noisy, unruly pests who knock over poolside gin and tonics, disturb meals by racing around the tables and ruin quiet afternoon siestas with their boisterous shrieks have persuaded one of the biggest hotel chains to outlaw them from large areas, which in future will be reserved for adults only.

The Hyatt hotel and resort chain, which has 158 properties throughout the world has decided to fence off the youngsters in their own compound after an intensive market survey - *The Psychology of Vacations* - disclosed that 41 per cent of people found children by far the most stressful fellow guests to have on holiday.

"Children are the one big issue on holiday," Marc Yanofsky, vice-president of marketing, said. "The one thing our guests enjoy least is being with other people's

children. There is nothing like 14 nine-year-olds running around to change their experience."

One's own children, perhaps not surprisingly, are not as irritating and only 10 per cent said that they found their own offspring stressful to be with. "There is a conflict, almost Freudian in its intensity, where couples want to take their own children with them and yet be alone together," Mr Yanofsky said.

"We have therefore initiated a programme called Camp Hyatt with activities all day for the children to be taken care of in their own separate compound so the parents can have time on their own."

"In view of the survey, we now plan to extend this concept significantly. It is always a delicate balance and we do not want to become neo-fascist with electrified fences to keep them out, but where we have instituted adult-only areas so far we have had no trouble or complaints."

What adults really want is

a soft pillow, comfortable beds, dimmed lighting fluffy carpets, bathrobes and, if possible, a double bath in which they can relax together and regain the spark that the pressures of modern life may have taken from their marriage, Mr Yanofsky said.

All that may be very well for the mainly American clients of Hyatt, but it received short shrift from most British hotels where children are still regarded as part of a family holiday.

"The whole American ethos is based on summer camps where children go off for a few weeks in the summer on their own, and this idea by Hyatt is simply an extension of that," Robin Lees, chief executive of the British Hotels, Restaurants and Caterers Association, said. "Some hotels may want to try it here and it may be the answer for those which do not have to cater for all the seven ages of man. But it has really opened up a whole can of worms."

Life and Times, page 14

Two lost in trawler collision

Two fishermen were feared drowned yesterday after their trawler was sunk by a cargo vessel in the Channel. Three survivors were picked up last night after spending almost 24 hours in a lifeboat 90 miles south of the Cornish coast where the Newlyn-based Margaret and William II went down.

An RAF Nimrod, a French reconnaissance aircraft and a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter were involved in the rescue operation.

Coastguards said the trawler sank in appalling conditions after colliding with another vessel.

Rescued crewmen from the Margaret and William told the navy helicopter crew that their boat was "mown down" in fog at about 5.30pm on Wednesday.

A spokesman for Falmouth Coastguard said last night that every effort would be made to trace the vessel that ran down the Margaret and William.

Harrods inquest

An inquest into the death of an elderly American tourist, killed when a taxi rammed him and his wife through a window at Harrods, opened yesterday. Paul Knapman, Westminster coroner, named the dead man as Elihu Friedman, aged 74, of Delray, Florida. The inquest was adjourned until October 30. Mr Friedman's wife Gertrude, aged 68, was satisfactory in hospital yesterday.

Poster banned

The Office for Verification of Advertising, a French watchdog, yesterday asked the Benetton clothing company to withdraw a poster showing a blood-covered newborn baby complete with umbilical cord. The advertisement, which was banned in Britain on Wednesday, has already appeared on the Paris Metro.

Minister to buy estate as

Oil dealer ran out of

RSPB new

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in orgies.
children
told police

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Parents took part in orgies, children told police

By KERRY GILL

FOUR of the nine Orkney children seized and taken into care in February after allegations of sexual abuse told social workers and the police that they had been involved in sex orgies with their parents and the Rev Morris McKenzie, the Church of Scotland minister on South Ronaldsay, it emerged for the first time yesterday.

In the continued public disclosure of the children's alleged experiences, it was stated that one of the boys was so upset that he at first refused to return home after the intervention of Sheriff David Kelbie five weeks after the seizures.

One of the girls, known as "MT", aged eight, had claimed that Mr McKenzie had abused her with his finger. Statements from the children were read to the judicial enquiry by Hugh Campbell, QC, counsel for the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (RSPCC).

The statements appeared to back up allegations made by three children from another family, the "Ws", who were already in care. The enquiry has heard their stories describing how sexual rituals were carried out on South Ronaldsay led by Mr McKenzie, whom they knew as the "master".

Paul Lee, the islands' social work director, said that he would have failed in his duty if he had not had the children taken to places of safety after the allegations. He would, he said, take the same action again.

Mr Campbell read the statements, contained in case notes compiled by Sue Miller, the senior social worker involved in the affair. One girl, "TH", during an interview with Liz McLean, of the RSPCC, and Police Constable Linda Williamson, told how a "bad man", known as the "prime minister", had hurt her and that she and her brother were driven to a circle in a field by their parents.

Adults were dressed in T-shirts and jeans. The children were pulled into the centre of the circle and hurt, she said. She became distressed when telling the story of a man wearing a long black dress. Her brother, "PH", was also interviewed but was tearful and unclear.

The enquiry was told earlier of a history of sexual abuse within the "W" family. It was told that the "W" father had been convicted of the sexual abuse of four of his daughters and that the "W" mother was also suspected of being an abuser. One "W" girl was taken into care after trying four times to kill herself. She said she had been abused by some of her brothers.

Mr Campbell said that the father had been in prison since November 1986. He had been convicted of physical abuse and sexual abuse of four of his daughters. After he was jailed, most of the family continued to live on South Ronaldsay, and there were suggestions of further sexual abuse. The RSPCC wrote to the Scottish secretary in July 1989 expressing concern about the care available for the family.

Society shunned in quest for quality TV

Melinda Wittstock profiles the ten commissioners whose secret deliberations will shape the outcome of the independent television franchise bids

BY THE end of this month, the seven men and three women whose concerns and caprices are so important to the future of commercial television will have reached their first verdicts, sealing the fate of those 40 bidders failing to satisfy the Independent Television Commission's requirements for quality television.

The jury's deliberations are proceeding in utmost secrecy: each of the 10 ITC board members, who met for several hours yesterday, has eschewed all social contact since the May 15 application deadline. Only in early October will they formally open the envelopes containing the cash bids of those who have passed the "quality threshold".

In late October, the process of deciding whether "exceptional circumstances" warrant the awarding of a licence to a lower cash bidder comes to an end with the announcement of the winners. Since the May 15

deadline, speculation has been rife in the industry about the amounts bidders have been prepared to gamble on keeping or winning a franchise, what the first Lord Thomson of Fleet once called a "licence to print money," but David Frost now jokes will be a "licence to borrow money".

The ITV companies, on tenterhooks since they delivered thousands of pages of programme promises and their bid numbers, can find some comfort in a statement by the ITC chairman, George Russell, that he would be "surprised but not embarrassed" if none of the licences changed hands. The people with the power to create and destroy the careers and the fortunes of companies have just three things in common: no experience as professional broadcasters, eminence in their fields of expertise, and a promise to keep their silence until the licences have been awarded.



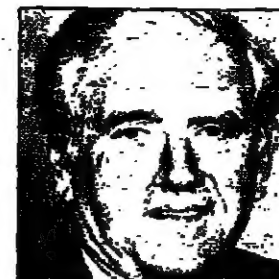
George Russell (chairman, £50,365), straight-talking George who ensured government retreat from deregulation proposed in original white paper. A former ITN chairman, now executive chairman of Marley.



Jocelyn Stevens (deputy chairman, £12,920), was part of a consortium that failed to win an ITV franchise in 1980. Senior management at Express Newspapers until 1981, and made rector of the Royal College of Art in 1984.



Pauline Mathias (£9,695), aged 62, retired headmistress in charge of More House Catholic girls' school, Knightsbridge, 1974-89. Known for condemnation of co-education and birth control for 16-year-old girls.



Prof Sean Fultor (£9,695), pro-vice-chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast. Aged 57, worked for the old IBA's Northern Ireland advisory committee. Is chairman of the BBC's schools broadcasting council.



Lady Popplewell (£9,695), aged 61, former Tory councillor, married to Mr Justice Popplewell, High Court judge. Open University council member and chairman of the Buckinghamshire County Probation Committee.



Pranlal Sheth (£9,695), Asian barrister who left Kenya in 1960s. A director of Reed Executive, member of the BBC's consultative group on industrial and business affairs and the BBC advisory group for Asian programmes.



Earl of Dalkeith (£9,695), aged 37, eldest son of the ninth Duke of Buccleuch. Former Tory councillor (Nithsdale, Dumfriesshire). Was a Border Television director, his ITC brief is Scotland.



Eleri Wynne Jones (£9,695), Welsh psychotherapist, aged 57, who helps individuals with "a wide range of emotional and behavioural problems". Member of the Welsh channel (S4C) Authority and a former Channel 4 director.



Prof James Ring (£9,695), aged 63, distinguished astronomer and an emeritus professor of physics at Imperial College, London. Was deputy chairman of the Cable Authority, now incorporated into the ITC, from 1984-9.



Roy Goddard (£9,695), business consultant, aged 52, recently retired from Goddard Kay Rogers recruitment agency. Will probably assess the business plans and executive management teams of the bidders.

Search for Globe goes ahead

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE next stage of the search for the Globe theatre, part-owned by Shakespeare and venue for his great tragedies, has been approved.

English Heritage has given consent to the Hanson Trust, owners of the site on the Thames south bank at Southwark, to begin investigating the possibility of excavating through the cellars of a listed building. A date has yet to be set for the work, which will be done by the Museum of London archaeologists.

The Globe was built in 1599 and destroyed by fire in 1613. A new theatre was built on the site, and almost no graphic remains of the original Globe have survived.

Sam Wanamaker, founder of the International Globe Theatre, whose £3 million replica of the world's most famous theatre is to be erected 500 yards away, said: "Our hopes are high that they will be able to get on with it at last and explore the original Globe foundations."

Some remains of the Globe were found almost two years ago but only a fraction could be uncovered. The rest would be beneath Anchor Terrace, a listed 19th century building.

Last year sub-surface scans showed that there were further remains beneath Anchor Terrace but provided no detail of their condition. The Hanson Trust and the museum applied for listed building consent to examine whether the Anchor Terrace foundations were strong enough to allow excavation. Four bore holes of about 18 inches in diameter will be dug through the cellars.

Mr Wanamaker said: "We understand these will be 'key-holes' to test the safety of the Anchor Terrace foundations, but they should be able to get a first look at the original Globe's foundations too."

Prize chance for a beautiful car park

By WILLIAM CASH

THE quest for the swankiest and most environment-friendly public car park in Britain was launched yesterday by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, in an attempt to destroy the impression that car parks are gloomy and inhospitable multi-storey dungeons.

A sample of the new car parks, or the car park as work of art, was on offer yesterday when the Aldersgate NCP car park in the City, the deepest car park in Britain, was filled with exotic tropical foliage, neon floodlights and gleaming Rovers parked for the launch. Speaking \$5ft below ground, Mr Howard said that too many car parks were eyesores, built without regard to their surroundings. In future, architects should be employed to design car parks that enhanced the environment.

Parking a car today can be bad for your health, being frightening and depressing, according to the English Tourist Board, which is running the competition for the best public car park,

urban or rural, built in the past five years.

John Warren, a consultant to the board, said that the "future might see car parks with piped music and deep-pile carpets at exits. The award would take into account security measures, such as installation of video cameras and panic alarms.

NCP said, however, that the idea of car parks as potential mugging spots for women was a myth. Around the M25, for example, the NCP parked 14,500,000 cars last year, with only two assaults on women reported.

Describing "parking" as one of the most controversial issues of modern life, William Davis, chairman of the tourist board, said that there was no excuse for run-down concrete monstrosities or vast car parks that were stuck on to the roadside near national parks or areas of beauty.

Mr Davis commended several Lake District car parks that had been split up and almost hidden by trees, but said that parks should not be impossible to find.

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RULES AND RIGHTS

Row over EETPU merger breaks Congress unity

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government intensified its attack on the Trades Union Congress last night as the fragile unity of the TUC conference broke over the issue of the expelled EETPU electricians' union.

In its latest green paper on trade unions, the government has made clear that it intends to outlaw the TUC's Bridlington rules, which govern relations between unions affiliated to the TUC.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, launched a scathing attack on the TUC's decision to reaffirm the force of the Bridlington rules as a clear indication that the unions were "living in the past".

Insisting that the Bridlington rules had no place in Britain's future, he said the TUC's decision showed that its leaders were unable and unwilling to support basic individual rights. "The TUC decided to uphold the long-discredited Bridlington principles, which give union bosses the power to drag ordinary members into unions to which they do not wish to belong."

His statement - the latest in his week of attacks on the unions as the annual TUC conference meets in Glasgow

came as the planned merger between Britain's largest manufacturing union, the AEU engineering workers, and the EETPU prompted an outbreak of hostility in the conference against the AEU. The right-wing electricians were expelled from the TUC three years ago for refusing to accept the TUC's rules in a dispute over single-union agreements, but the planned merger looks likely to bring them back into the TUC, to the fury of the left.

Bill Jordan, AEU president, was hissed, booed and shouted at as he stood at the rostrum. He hit back at delegates: "If



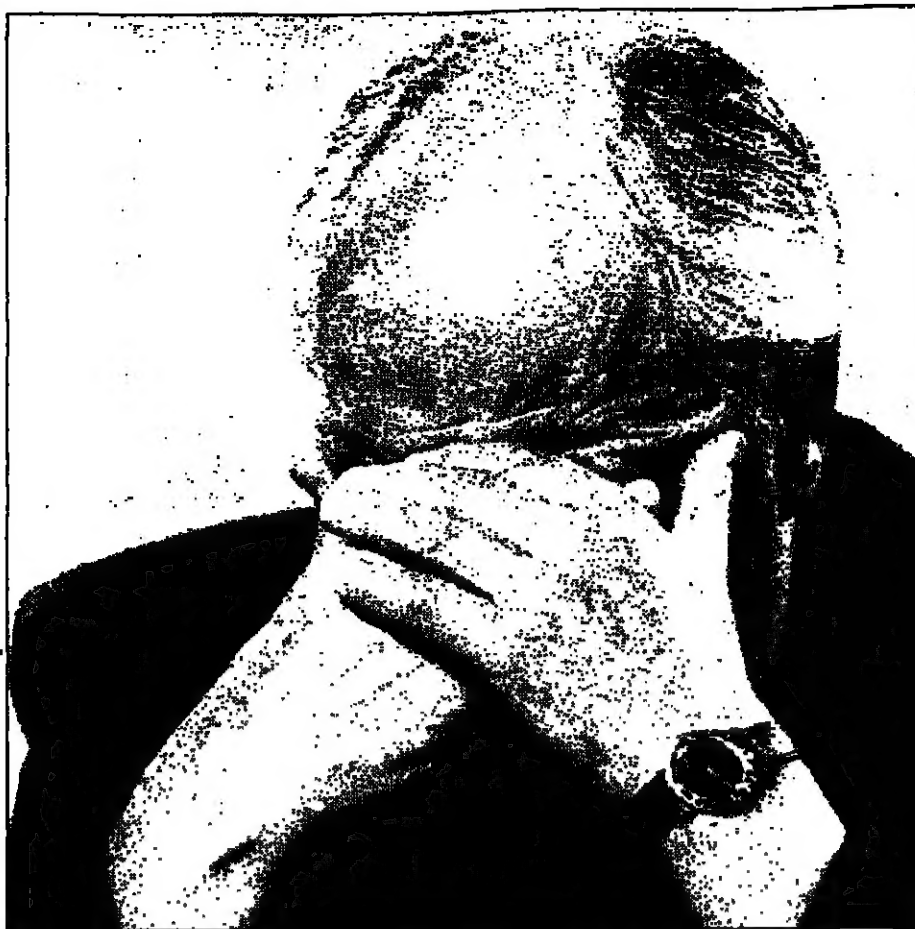
Jordan: hissed and booed at the rostrum

breaking TUC rules was a crime, we would need a very large dock and most of you would be in it".

The AEU and the EETPU fought for better pay and conditions for their members, he said, adding: "Must this movement continually look for the right-sized scapegoats to justify its defeats?"

Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, backed the move on Bridlington proposed by the Electrical and Plumbing Industries' Union, the left-wing rump of the expelled EETPU, which is now affiliated to the TUC. He said that the hand of welcome was still held out to the EETPU, but that hand also held the TUC's rules, which had to be kept.

Some unions held out the threat that the AEU would be expelled if the electricians were brought back into the TUC by a merger "back door". If the ballot between the two unions does go ahead, however, TUC officials have agreed privately that the EETPU could remain as a separate section of the new union, unaffiliated to the TUC until a ballot a year later of the merged union's total membership on affiliation.



Show of hands: Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, relaxing during a debate

Rail policy on wrong tracks

THE government's promise in its citizen's charter to give refunds to dissatisfied rail passengers is little more than a gimmick, the TUC said yesterday as it released the results of an opinion poll indicating that most people believing that government money could be better spent (Philip Bassett writes).

The unions said that the

poll, carried out by NOP for the TUC, indicated little support for the government's transport policies. It showed strong public support, however, for more spending on buses and trains, more frequent services and more staff to help passengers. Eighty-two per cent of those polled thought that higher spending was necessary to improve

services, with most people believing that the government should meet the cost.

British Rail staff, faced with train unreliability, overcrowding and abuse from passengers, are ashamed to admit that they work on the railways, Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT transport union, told the conference.

CONGRESS NOTEBOOK Philip Bassett

Union chiefs under starter's orders in Toyota deal race

How the unions line up in today's main debate in Glasgow will be an interesting forerunner of the race to be the union chosen to deal with the Japanese car company Toyota in its new British factories.

The debate will centre on single-union deals and Japanese employment practices. Ken Gill, who will lead the attack for the MSF general technical union, has never thought his union is in the running. In seconding the motion, the TGWU transport and general union, which will not accept the compulsory binding arbitration Toyota wants, is all but acknowledging that its chances are not good.

In opposing it, the GMB boilermakers' union is keeping its band in with Toyota, though it will be Gavin Laird, for the AEU engineering union, which is likely to win, who will pitch most strongly against Gill.

Eric Hammond, whose EETPU electricians is no longer in the TUC, would love to be in Glasgow today to take a pot at Gill, an old sparring partner. The electricians were the pioneers of the single-union, strike-free agreements - many of them with Japanese firms - about which Gill objects so strongly. But the EETPU was expelled from the TUC three years ago for refusing to accept its rulings on two such agreements, so Hammond could not be present.

Or at least, not in person. On-off merger talks between the AEU and the EETPU are on again.

Dirty tricks are nothing new in the transport union. It was interesting, then, that a story emerged from Ron Todd's office that the union's general secretary was preparing to reprimand Jack Dromey, its public services national secretary, for being absent without leave from the conference.

Given the vast empty spaces in all delegations, as the attraction of doing anything other than listen to boring debates becomes irresistible, Todd's move could not - could it? - have anything to do with the

union's current election for the deputy general secretaryship, in which the Kinnockite Dromey is standing against Jack Adams, another national secretary who also happens to be a member of the Communist party.

Virtually all the officials at the TGWU's headquarters are pro-Adams, or, at least, they are anti-Dromey. Perhaps that might have something to do with how this story trickled out.

This year's TUC conference is historic for many reasons. It is the first time it has been held in Scotland for half a century. For the first time, it has given unanimous backing to a national minimum wage. It is the first time it fully embraced European-style social partnerships. And for the last time the BBC will televise proceedings live.

As union power, influence and importance have dwindled, the BBC has scaled down its coverage of the conference. This week, live coverage was cut to 50 hours. But, strapped for cash and justified in their decision by the tediousness of some conference discussions, the BBC is to end its coverage completely.

Its decision presents a problem for the TUC. Not only does the BBC now provide much-needed publicity, it also lights the hall.

Both organisations are hopeful a private company from the financially strained independent television sector will cover the event. But if it does, there is no guarantee that the BBC will broadcast any of it live, which might make it uneconomical to take on.

Of course, there will be an election before next year's conference and if Labour wins, the situation will be different. The BBC would almost certainly want to televise live again. But it might have to pay much more for the privilege. Sharply increased television fees would be a nice little earner for the TUC, which at present has a £700,000 deficit, from a Labour victory.

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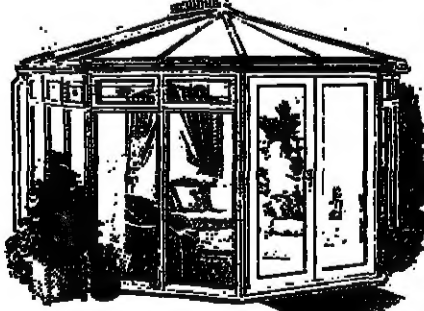
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3,500 jobs 'depend on frigate deal'

By ROSS TIEBMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

YARROW Shipbuilders could close with the loss of 3,500 jobs if the Clyde-side yard fails to win a contract to build three Type 23 frigates, it was claimed yesterday.

Stewart Crawford, the yard convener, said that closure would put at risk the future of 1,500 workers at the nearby Kvaerner Govan yard. It would effectively end shipbuilding on Clydeside, which in the last century had the greatest concentration of shipyards in the world.

Trade union leaders in Glasgow yesterday launched a

campaign to attract political attention to the plight of the Yarrow yard, owned by the General Electric Company. Mr Crawford said that bids from four yards competing for the Type 23 contract, due on September 26, would probably be so similar that the government would be forced to adopt political criteria to decide between them.

Yarrow's strongest rival is likely to be Swan Hunter, on Tyne-side, but there is also competition from VSEL at Barrow-in-Furness, and Vosper Thornycroft, at Southampton. An announcement of the successful bidder is expected in April next year, but a general election could upset the timing.

The Yarrow yard, at Scotstoun, is already expected to shed up to 800 workers by the end of this year, in spite of the announcement earlier this week of an impending order for two corvettes for Malaysia. Four frigates under construction for the Royal Navy at Yarrow are expected to be completed by mid-1993.

Mr Crawford said that the cost of dredging the Clyde to ensure that ships could be launched was too great to be carried by one yard alone. Kvaerner Govan has this year refused to contribute to the estimated £2 million cost. Steinar Dragebo, managing director of the Kvaerner yard, said: "It puts us at a disadvantage compared with competitors around the world." Kvaerner believes that it pays its share of the cost through conservancy fees levied on ships using the waterway.

Sir Robert Easton, chairman of Yarrow Shipbuilders, said: "It's a very critical bid as far as we are concerned. We have got to take it. If we fail to get the Type 23 order and get nothing else we have a problem."

Yarrow had been in a similar position when it lost the Type 23 order to VSEL in 1987. The yard's bid would be highly competitive.

Sir Robert said there was only enough Ministry of Defence work to support two of Britain's four warship yards, adding: "We're determined to be one of the yards which survives."

Scargill's nuclear call backed

ARTHUR Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, bounced back yesterday when he won the TUC's largest backing for an anti-nuclear stance on energy policy (Philip Bassett writes).

Earlier this week, Mr Scargill was substantially defeated when the TUC conference refused to support his stance on employment law. Yesterday, however, the conference backed by 4,598,000 votes to 3,213,000 a rallying call from Mr Scargill against nuclear power.

He said: "No one with any sanity can continue to support a nuclear power programme which is dangerous and expensive. We need a balanced energy programme, which means the phasing out of all nuclear power."



Scargill: wants nuclear power to be phased out



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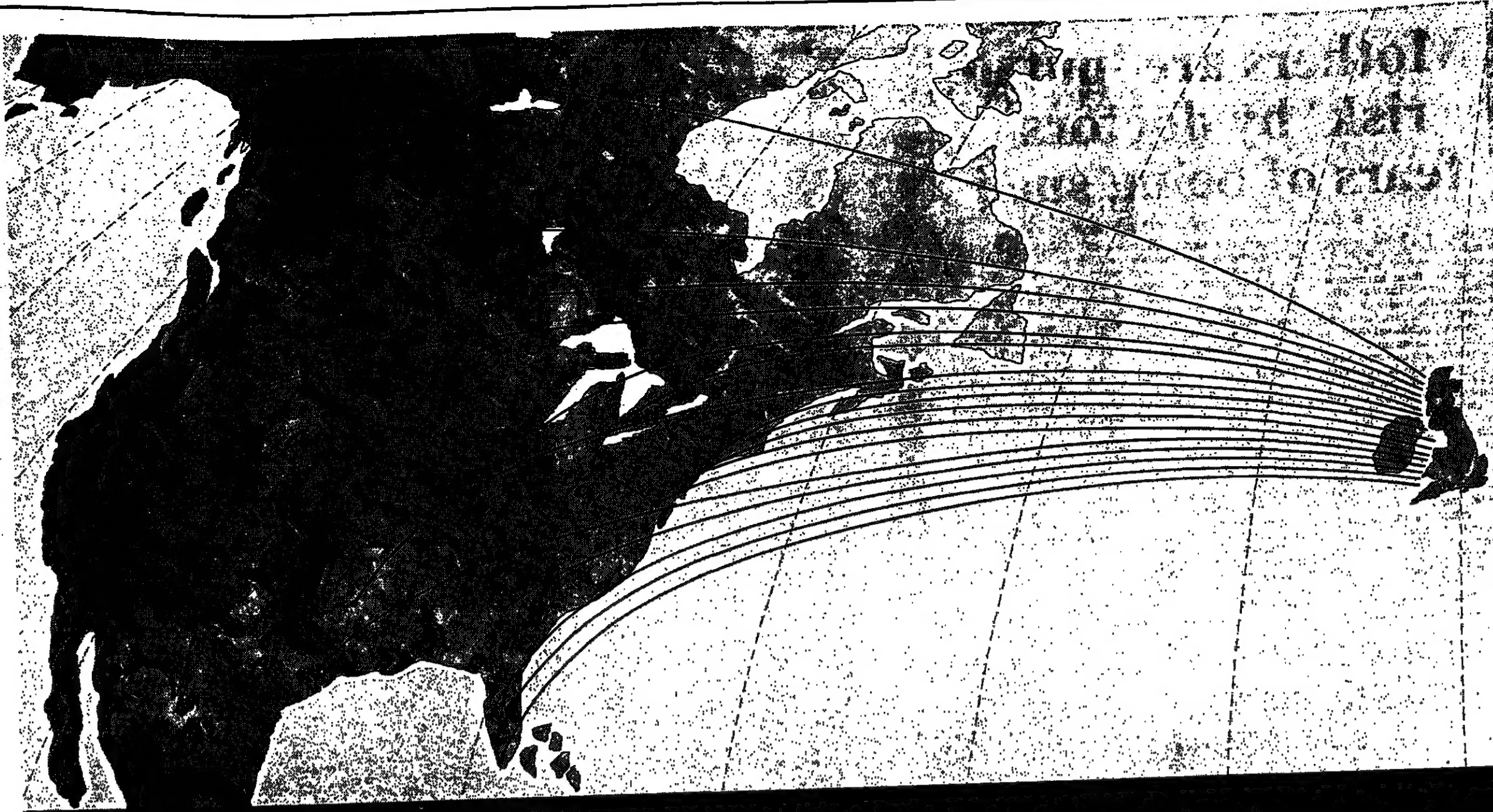
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Mothers are 'put at risk' by doctors' fears of being sued

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FEARS of British obstetricians that they might be sued for medical negligence are leading them to practise defensive medicine that could jeopardise the health of mothers and their babies, according to research published today.

The increasing number of Caesarean sections and other interventions in labour being recorded could partly be a response to the rising number of claims alleging negligence, the authors of a study in today's issue of *The Lancet* say.

A survey of 1,200 obstetricians and gynaecologists suggests that some are using foetal monitoring tests that they regard as inaccurate to protect themselves, rather than to help expectant mothers.

"Indiscriminate use of these tests is likely to result in unnecessarily high rates of

intervention, which may cause morbidity and mortality," the report's authors say. "The anxiety of doctors about litigation and the increased cost of carrying out more and perhaps unnecessary tests may become an intolerable burden on the National Health Service."

They found that although many specialists regarded biochemical tests of mother and fetus as only 26 per cent accurate, and foetal blood sampling tests as 86 per cent accurate, they continued to use them. "Our data indicates that tests deemed to be inaccurate are used in clinical practice because some obstetricians fear litigation."

Professor Geddis Grudzinski, of the London hospital medical college, Whitechapel, and psychologists at University College, London, warn that Britain

could experience a climate similar to that in America, where the management of childbirth is heavily influenced by the fear among specialists that they will be sued for negligence.

Complaints about obstetric and gynaecological practice account for 30 per cent of all claims of negligence against health authority doctors in the United Kingdom. Most concern incidents that occur during operations in either gynaecological practice or childbirth, the report says.

In the survey, the attitudes of obstetricians to tests of foetal and maternal well-being were investigated. In spite of some tests being perceived as having poor accuracy, all were widely used.

The most frequent explanations given for the finding were that such tests were necessary for medicolegal reasons and an aid to clinical judgment.

"Our results suggest that defensive medicine is being practised to a limited extent by some obstetricians in the United Kingdom and Eire. Some may argue that the threat of litigation actually improves standards of medical care, for example, an improved quality of note-keeping and an increased use of diagnostic tests," the report says.

It adds that this may lead to an intolerable burden on the health service. "The assignment to an 'at risk' category because of an abnormal result on a routine test may lead to medical intervention, which, although well intentioned, may itself be the cause of risk to mother and foetus."

The authors say other research suggests that the present system of providing obstetric care may have led to "a litigious environment that promotes defensive medicine for the benefit of the doctor and not the patient".

Professor Grudzinski said that the study would be repeated within the next three to five years to assess whether that view was correct and whether the American experience was being repeated in the United Kingdom.

Prince shows off holistic centre

THE Prince of Wales yesterday showed William Waldegrave, the health secretary, how a health centre combining orthodox and alternative medicine such as acupuncture and homoeopathy has significantly cut its drug bill. The prince had extended a personal invitation to Mr Waldegrave to visit Marylebone Health Centre in St Marylebone parish church, London. The centre, opened by the prince in 1987, is run jointly by the NHS and the church.

The prince, a firm believer in treating the whole person, sat in the white-washed crypt of the church as doctors told how their model of health care was far cheaper than the average general practice.

Dr Patrick Pietroni, chairman of the centre's trust and a founder of the British Holistic Medical Association, said the whole person approach was not only immensely rewarding for patients but achieved substantial savings on prescribing, referrals and admissions to hospital. Dr Derek



Wing: "Acupuncture has definitely worked for me." Chase, the centre's practice director, said that last year the centre saved £70,000 on its drugs budget. "We spent £55,000 on drugs last year. The national average is £125,000."

Among patients seen by the prince was the former *East-Enders* actress Anna Wing. She was receiving acupuncture for what she called her wobbly legs. Asked if acupuncture worked, she said: "Most definitely, yes."



Waters of time: the view over Thirlmere as it looked to a tourist yesterday, and, below, as it was in 1878 before the building of the reservoir

Unsung Victorian reservoir given due recognition

By RONALD FAUX

THE stalwart Victorians who created Thirlmere reservoir in Cumbria and the 96-mile aqueduct linking it to the taps of Manchester have received overdue honour for an engineering feat that compares with the building of the great rail routes. Thirlmere, now controlled by North West Water, has been given a merit award by the Institution of Civil Engineers' northern counties association which, like the reservoir, is in its centenary year.

"This recognition has been long delayed," Professor Roy Severn, national president of the institution, said as he unveiled a plaque on the fortress-like wall of the reservoir. "Thirlmere reservoir was a tremendous achievement, which perhaps has been taken for granted over the years. It had a great

impact on improving the health of Manchester, which was served with polluted water that caused death and unhappiness by the spread of typhoid."

The plaque stands next to the Victorian monument unveiled by the Manchester water works committee chairman nearly a century ago as the first fresh water from Thirlmere gushed from a fountain in Albert Square in the city centre.

The reservoir lifted the level of the lake by 54ft and the scheme met with strong local opposition. The story goes that the chairman of the waterworks committee and one of Manchester's aldermen crawled on hands and knees past the windows of Dalehead Hall to escape being manhandled by the squire as they went to examine the shoreline. A local



farmer's daughter, married to a Russian count, sold her land to the corporation for three times its assessed value, although further attempts by landowners to exploit Manchester's needs were stopped by a Land Clauses (Umpire) Act.

The reservoir, which supplies 45 million gallons of water a day to Manchester, is undergoing a £10 million refurbishment, with Victorian valves and mechanical gear being replaced and

the aqueduct route repaired. Peter Birtwistle, North West Water's regional water supply manager, said: "Everything works well enough because it was built to last, but the system needs bringing up to date. It has quietly done its job for a century and I suppose it is rather taken for granted."

For many years the lake was closed to the public for fear that the 9,000 million gallons of water hidden behind a thick shield of trees

would become polluted, but modern treatment methods have allowed Thirlmere to become a popular centre for sailing and fishing, and the surrounding 12,000 acres of woodland now have nature trails and picnic spots for visitors.

North West Water this week handed the institution a cheque for the charity Water Aid. The money will go towards a fresh water supply project in Sierra Leone, west Africa.

Environment-friendly products

A confusion of greenery

By LOUISE HIDALGO

MOST shoppers are confused by manufacturers' claims that their products are eco-friendly, and the majority suspect that supermarkets use green-labelling as an excuse to charge higher prices, according to a report by Mintel.

Almost three quarters of consumers are sceptical of attempts by food retailers to appear green, and only 10 per cent think that supermarkets' caring campaigns are aimed at bettering the environment, the survey says.

Four in ten regard the advertising as a smokescreen, while six in ten are confused by the environmental claims for products.

The least gullible to green marketing were the growing breed of "dark green" consumers, a discerning and more affluent group who now account for 39 per cent of all shoppers, according to the report. Cynicism and confusion were widespread, however, among all shoppers. The dark green consumer

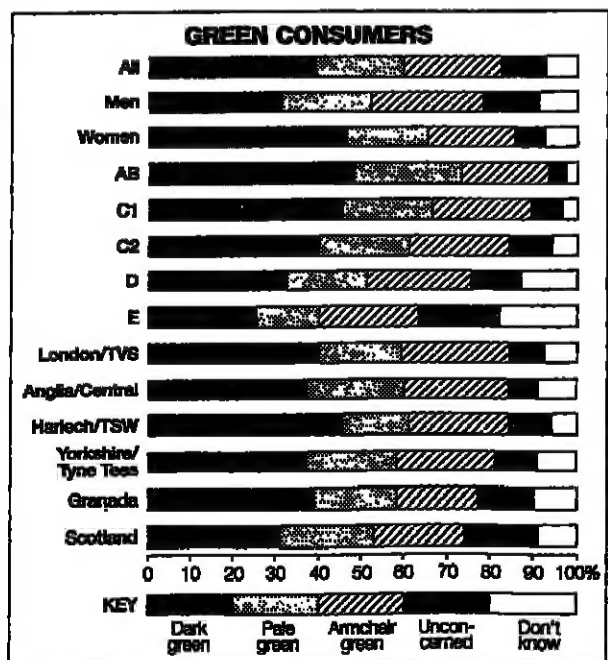
scours the supermarket shelves for environment-friendly products. He, or more usually she, always buys recycled-lavatory paper and is enthusiastic about biodegradable meat trays and washing-up liquid that does not harm the environment.

The "pale green" shopper buys eco-friendly goods given the choice, but will not go out of his or her way to find them. Another 20 per cent, the "armchair" greens, voice concerns about the environment but have not changed their shopping habits to match.

Only 10 per cent of shoppers said that they never worried about environmental issues, although 2 per cent of those claimed not to buy eco-friendly products on principle.

The report dispels all hopes that supermarkets can lure more green shoppers to their stores by polishing their environmental image. It is the age and social class of a supermarket's consumer base that mainly dictates how green its shoppers are, the report says.

The darkest green, who tend to be the younger, wealthier shoppers from larger households, are more likely to frequent the aisles of Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's than those of Safeway, in spite of the latter being in the vanguard of green retailing and gaining a top rating from the *Green Supermarket Guide*.



MPs urge eco-labels for UK

By JOHN WINDER

A COMMITTEE of MPs is calling for the government to introduce a labelling scheme to identify environment-friendly products because a European scheme might be delayed.

The European Parliament and the commission in Brussels are in dispute over the labelling. Sir Hugh Rossi, Conservative MP for Hornsey and Wood Green and chairman of the environment select committee, said yesterday that the scheme appeared to be a pawn in a power game between the two bodies. He hoped that the government

could set up its own scheme by the end of next year.

Sir Hugh was presenting a report by the committee, which is concerned about misleading environmental claims about their products and wants the government to take early steps to make clear that such practices are illegal. He quoted the example of a company that said that its aerosol propellants were free of CFCs, but failed to point out that the cleaning product being emitted was a CFC.

The new scheme, whether it is European or British, will be

voluntary, and MPs of all parties on the committee rejected the idea of a ban on unofficial labels.

The government has estimated the cost of introducing a labelling scheme at £1 million. The select committee concluded that such a scheme "stands a good chance of assisting consumers to play their roles in protecting the environment from the impact of contemporary lifestyles, that it need not be expensive and that it will complement the government's existing portfolio of environmental policies."

Guildford pair admit drug charge

Two members of the Guildford Four admitted yesterday possessing illegal drugs. Gerard Conlon, aged 37, and Patrick Armstrong, 40, were conditionally discharged for two years by Clemenwell magistrates' court, London.

Conlon, of Holloway, north London, admitted possessing cocaine and "ecstasy", and Armstrong, of Largs, Strathclyde, admitted possessing cocaine. The drugs were discovered when police stopped their car in London on May 25.

The men, who served 14 years of a life sentence after being wrongly convicted of the Guildford pub bombings, were told by Mark Romer, the magistrate: "Everybody has profound sympathy with you for what you had to endure. I am going to take a lenient course."

Blast man dies

Gordon McCracken, the 32-year-old Scottish Power worker who was badly burnt in an explosion this week at an electricity sub-station in Grangemouth, Central, died in hospital from his injuries.

School unsafe

Thornbury middle school, Bradford, was closed after building experts declared it unsafe. The 360 pupils will use temporary classrooms or go to a school three miles away during repairs.

Player jailed

The rugby player Ian Greenslade, aged 26, who plays hooker for Cardiff, was jailed for three months by magistrates at Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, for punching a man at a nightclub.

Death crash

A motorist aged 71 and his two passengers, both aged 20, were killed when their car crashed into a wall at Plymouth, Plymouth.

Baby qualifier

George Milligan, aged 74, and his wife Mary, 75, were told by housing officials at Smethwick, Birmingham, that they would have to have a baby to qualify for a bigger council home.

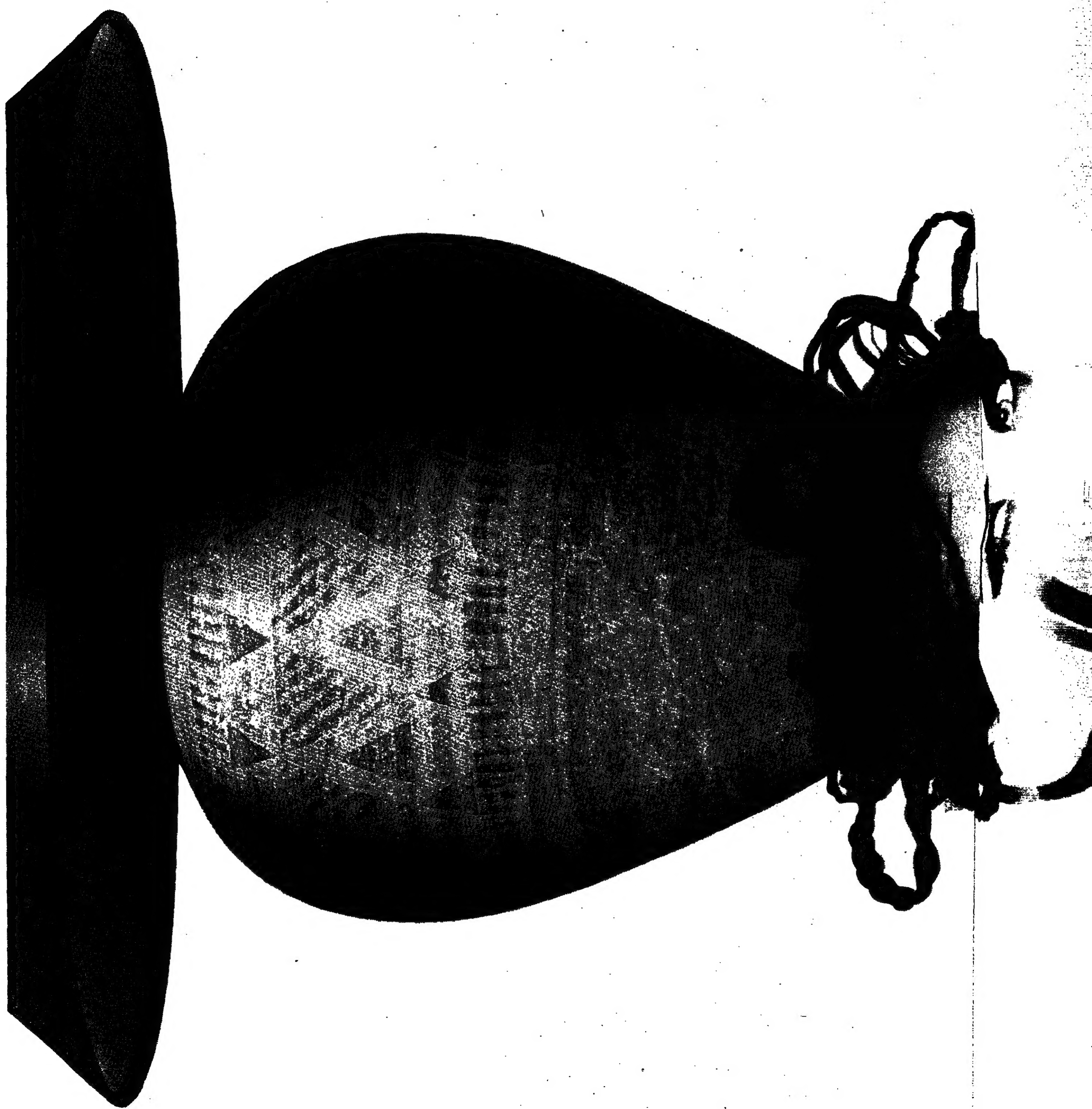
Student accommodation at Woolworths. (Well, we've got a nice pad going cheap.)



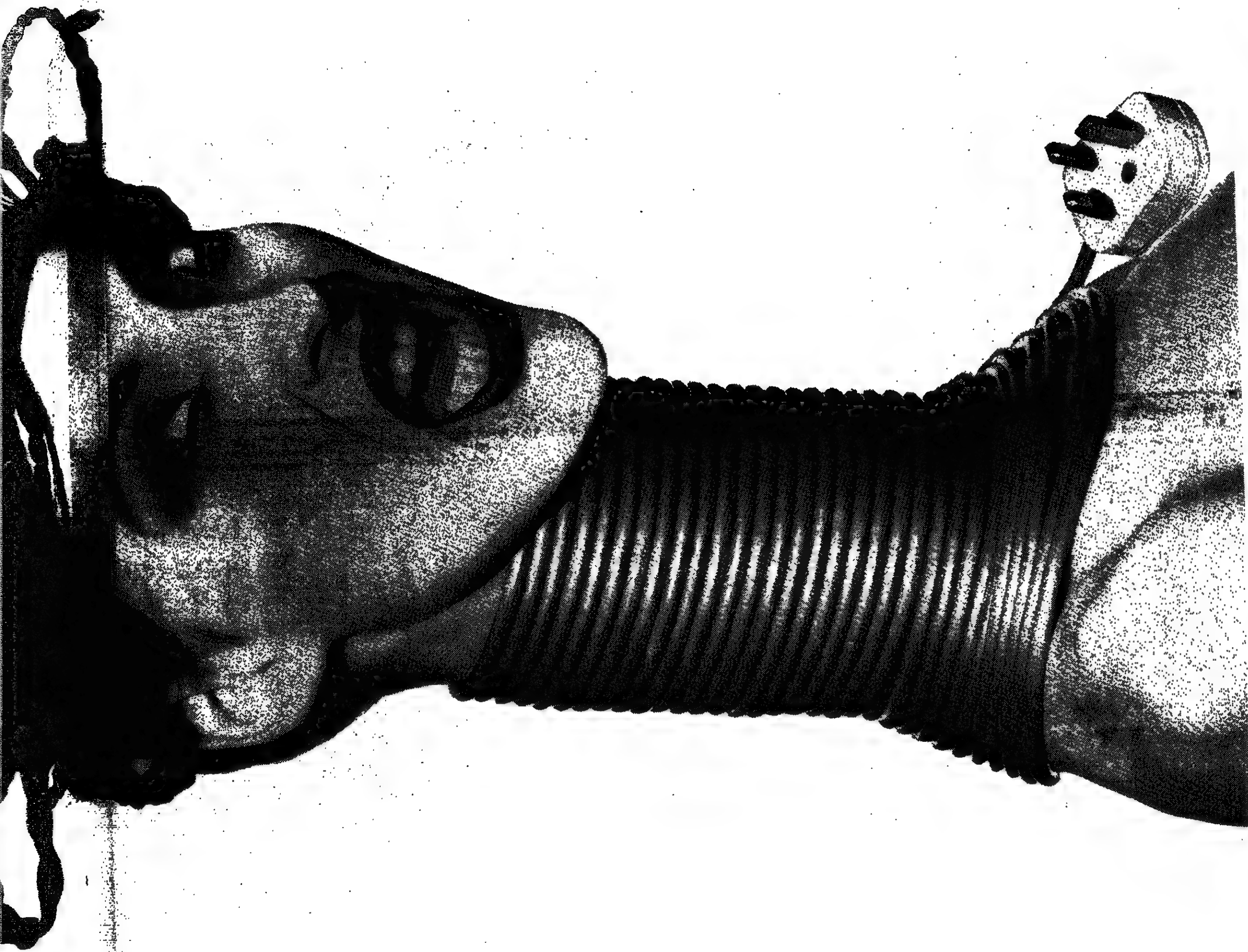
A4 Ruled Pad (160 leaves) 99p, 20 A4 Punched Pockets 99p, Twin Pack of Ring Binders £1.50, 4 Highlighter Pens 99p, Parker Jotter Ballpen - half-price, now £2.62.

WOOLWORTHS

50 من الاجل



1550 من الال



Discover the tribal influences behind Habitat's new autumn collection. (Mrs. Livingroom, I presume?)

BATH BIRMINGHAM BOURNEMOUTH BRIGHTON BRISTOL BROMLEY CAMBRIDGE CANTERBURY CARDIFF CHELMSFORD CHELTENHAM CHESTER CROYDON DARLASTON EDINBURGH EXETER GLASGOW GUILDFORD HARRGATE HAUFELD IPSWICH KINGSTON LEEDS LEICESTER LONDON NW3 W6 SW3 W1 MAIDENHEAD MANCHESTER MILTON KEYNES NORWICH OXFORD SOLIHULL SOUTHAMPTON TUNBRIDGE WELLS WALLINGFORD WORCESTER WYTHENSHAW YORK

to remember the wives of the 10 Con Owl Close, Helmsley, York.

anytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (071 782 5046).

De Klerk proposals seen as opening gambit in a long game



Worrall: there will be many compromises

POWER-SHARING proposals by South Africa's ruling National party were yesterday given a generally favourable response by constitutional analysts.

The consensus was that the proposals embodied sound and essential principles, but that some of the mechanics were either unworkable or unacceptable to the black majority, and would be discarded during negotiations on a new constitution.

Denis Worrall, the Democratic party spokesman on constitutional affairs said: "It is essentially a framework, and there are going to be a lot of compromises. Given its constituency and pressures from the right wing, the government has to start by emphasising the protection of minorities, and achieving a balance between minority and individual interests. It

The principles behind National party plans for power-sharing are sound, but ANC criticisms are nevertheless valid, Gavin Bell writes from Johannesburg

represents a substantial break with the past by going for universal franchise and playing down race as a factor.

"Inevitably, constitutional proposals for South Africa have tended to either strengthen central government or neutralise it. The African National Congress tends to overplay central government because it feels it can control it, and use it to supervise economic redistribution. The National party, being less confident about controlling the centre, and more conscious of vested interests, wants to dilute it, and in the process it has gone too far. I

think smaller players, such as the Democratic party and the [Coloured] Labour party can play a useful role in providing a balance on a lot of issues.

"The difficulty of applying the Swiss concept of a collegiate executive is that, in South Africa, we have a tradition of strong leadership and central government. The Nationalists have always gone for this African tradition, so they now have a credibility problem in selling the coalition concept...

"I quite understand ANC objections concerning local government. The impression is definitely created that they

entrench vested interests, and I am afraid that some worthwhile proposals will suffer from this perception. However, I believe President de Klerk has been morally courageous, and that the general principles he has put forward will survive.

David Welsh, who is professor of political studies at Cape Town university, said: "Like the curate's egg, the proposals are good in parts. I think the intention to preclude a winner-takes-all outcome is good, and I believe the need for an institutionalised coalition government in South Africa is also highly desirable.

"I have no quarrel with the proposed executive, but I have some reservations about whether it is going to work. My surmise is that it is an opening gambit, and that the Nationalists may well accept

something else providing it ensures coalition government. In principle, I believe that a deeply divided society like South Africa needs a cabinet in which the major political parties are represented on some kind of proportional basis, but I am not sure whether the Swiss model on which this is clearly based is capable of export.

"I think the ANC's view of the second house is right. That kind of electoral weighting smacks of racial quotas and minority vetoes, and it will simply not fly. I appreciate the problem the Nationalists are addressing. Minorities in deeply divided societies have legitimate and reasonable political fears, and one has to address them, but I think the mechanics devised by the National party are likely to be unacceptable. The same objections apply to the

local government proposals. Anything that is based upon so gross a class distinction will not work.

"I believe that the idea of an executive as broadly based as possible will survive. The acceptance of universal suffrage on a common voters' roll is the linchpin of the whole system. I think the distance between the Nationalists and the ANC on contentious issues may be less than the rhetoric at the moment suggests."

Professor Laurence Schlemmer, director of the Centre for Policy Studies at Witwatersrand university, said: "The proposals are broadly compatible with a fairly well established framework for conflict resolution in deeply divided societies. I think the National party is genuine in its intentions to build a democracy. The prob-

lem is that an essential conflict of interests exists. The agendas of both the black left wing and the white right wing. The result is that the Nationalists are in the middle of the road where they are most likely to be hit from both sides.

"However, their proposals for power-sharing are not only viable, they are essential in an interim phase of up to five years. Not least because the ANC faces a major problem in securing authority over a state system still at odds with their political culture. Just think of the difficulties they would have in establishing authority over the armed forces, or conservative tribal homeland bureaucracies. A shared executive would assist the ANC in easing itself into what would otherwise be dissenting state structures."

Hong Kong liberals call for Major to protect democracy

From ROBIN OAKLEY AND JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

JOHN Major yesterday failed to offer immediate concrete proposals to speed up Hong Kong's progress to democracy. The prime minister said he would wait to see the results of Hong Kong's first direct elections for the legislative council this month before considering an approach to Peking to agree changes in the proportion of directly elected members.

At present only 18 of the 60 seats are up for election, and the number will increase to just 20 in the next elections in

1995. Officials had encouraged speculation that Mr Major might have been prepared to signal his readiness to press for early changes. Instead he repeated the formula that future action would depend on the success of the present elections.

Mr Major said yesterday that he would consider approaching Peking only after hearing the views of those newly elected this month. But Martin Lee, chairman of the liberal United Democrats of Hong Kong, attacked him for speaking out on human rights in China while having "little to say about the democratic rights and freedoms of the six million British colonial citizens in Hong Kong". Mr Lee urged the prime minister to have "the courage and conviction to change his government's short-sighted policy and ensure that Hong Kong will have both the democracy and autonomy that were promised" when terms were agreed on its return to Chinese control in 1997.

Members of the United Democrats, who expected to gain a big majority of the elected seats, earlier confronted Mr Major, shouting their support for greater democracy. The group sent him an open letter asking him to "establish a democratic political system in Hong Kong in the remaining six years of British rule".

At a press conference Mr Major reacted to criticisms that it was "no big deal" on his visit to Peking to have had the

Chinese reaffirm the 1984 Joint Declaration. He said that, because Chinese leaders had reaffirmed the document personally to him in 1991, there could be no danger of them claiming in the run-up to 1997 that things should be changed because circumstances had been misunderstood.

But Mr Lee said the airport memorandum and the general state of Sino-British relations over Hong Kong were inconsistent with the declaration. He accused Britain and China of not being prepared to honour their 1984 promises.

Elsie Tu, a Hong Kong legislator, accused Mr Major of talking in platitudes like an "instant expert". She said he saw Hong Kong through rose-coloured spectacles. She welcomed the airport memorandum, however.

In a lunchtime speech, Mr Major promised that Britain would continue to safeguard Hong Kong's future, its prosperity and its freedoms, emphasising that "long after 1997 the people of Hong Kong will have a strong and staunch friend in the United Kingdom". He defended his Peking trip as essential to Hong Kong's interests. The memorandum on the airport "opens the way to significantly improved co-operation with China in the interests of Hong Kong". His visit had resulted in agreement to end blockages in the working of the Joint Liaison Group and guaranteed the independence of the Hong Kong judiciary.



High flier: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, being winched from a helicopter on to a patrol boat yesterday after a tour of Hong Kong

Britain grants biggest loan since Tiananmen Square

By CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITISH banks have agreed to lend China £100 million. The loan is the biggest secured by Peking since the suppression of the pro-democracy campaign in June 1989.

The money will finance the building of an ethylene plant. The project is the biggest covered by the £300 million concessional finance package offered by the British government in September 1988 but frozen when sanctions were imposed after the shootings in Tiananmen Square. The deal, underwritten by a consortium of nine British banks led by the Midland, was signed in Peking on the last day of John Major's visit to China. The British embassy in Peking insisted that the timing was coincidental.

Restrictions on loans to China were removed last

December. The agreement for the £100 million loan was initially well before Mr Major's visit was announced.

Britain and other Western countries cut off official loans, high-level government contacts and military co-operation after the Chinese army opened fire on unarmed demonstrators in June 1989. The European Community lifted all but the military embargo in October 1990.

The signing of the loan agreement signals the normalisation of economic relations in the same way that the prime minister's visit reflected the normalisation of diplomatic relations. The two events may have been timed to coincide.

The loan, repayable over 20 years, is at a preferential rate of interest of less than 5 per

cent. It will enable China to import equipment from Britain for the construction of an ethylene plant with an annual capacity of 140,000 tonnes in the northwestern region of Xinjiang. The factory is part of a vast petro-chemical project partly financed by foreign credit.

Britain's biggest government-backed loan to China last year was for £12 million. Defections denied: China yesterday denied reports in Japanese newspapers that thousands of KGB officers and members of the Soviet Communist party had defected to northern China after the failed Soviet coup attempt last month. Wu Jianmin, a foreign ministry spokesman, told a weekly meeting of foreign correspondents that the reports were groundless.

China cuts all aid to Khmer Rouge

From AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN PEKING

CHINA yesterday called a halt to all assistance to the Khmer Rouge, ending more than 20 years of direct backing and of providing a guarantee against a return to power by Cambodia's former rulers. "We do not provide any assistance to any of the three resistance parties of Cambodia," the foreign ministry said.

The Khmer Rouge is the military backbone of the resistance and Peking has supplied most of its weapons. Previously it had cut off only military support. But the ministry said yesterday it had now stopped all assistance as a result of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council producing a peace plan for Cambodia last year.

Stephen Solarz, chairman of the American House of Repre-

sentatives Asian and Pacific affairs subcommittee, who is visiting Peking, said Chinese officials told him that assistance would now be channelled through the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, which unites the resistance movements and the Phnom Penh government. The decision was an "extraordinarily significant development," he said.

"The termination of direct Chinese assistance to the Khmer Rouge will make it far more difficult for the Khmer Rouge to resume their efforts to win power on the battlefield in the future," he added. After talks with Qian Qichen, the foreign minister, he said China was "quite confident that a settlement is near" in Cambodia, based on the UN-brokered peace plan.

Israel defies Bush over housing aid

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL will today formally ask the Bush administration for \$10 billion (£5.9 billion) in housing loan guarantees in spite of American appeals that it delay the request because the move threatens to undermine Washington's Middle East peace efforts.

The administration has not publicly explained why it wants a delay, but President Bush is said to be determined that the loan guarantees should be given only in return for a firm Israeli commitment to halt settlements in the occupied territories. This could give Israel's hardliners a pretext for withdrawing from the Middle East peace conference planned for next month, but an American failure to secure a commitment on new settlements would anger the Arab states.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, telephoned Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, last Sunday to ask him to delay the request until after the October conference, but Mr Shamir apparently called back on Tuesday to say no. Mr Shamir yesterday denied that Washington had asked Israel to delay its request for loan guarantees, but Yossi Ben Aharon, director-general of Mr Shamir's office, indicated that Washington had made its wishes clear.

The Israelis argue that the loan guarantees are urgently needed to settle up to a million Soviet émigrés over the next five years, that the request is a humanitarian one unrelated to the peace process, and that the guarantees could be delayed indefinitely if not included in the 1992 foreign aid bill that is soon to go before Congress. Mr Shamir said: "There... should not be a linkage between the two issues for the simple reason that American aid to absorb immigration is a humanitarian enterprise of the highest order and should not be affected by conditions."

Asked if he would be willing to suspend settlement construction in the run up to a

peace conference, Mr Shamir said: "I have never given this issue any thought, because I do not see settlement as violating order, justice or rights in any way."

Israeli officials argued that giving way on the settlements, or the loan issue, would send the wrong signals to Washington and the Arab world. Binayamin Netanyahu, the deputy foreign minister, said: "If the Arabs believe that America will put pressure on Israel, what possible incentive will they have to make compromises?"

The Bush administration is now pressing Congress to delay consideration of the Israeli request. Mr Baker said this week that the administration was in the midst of "very sensitive diplomatic efforts" that offered an historic opportunity for Middle East peace. He did not want those efforts "undercut". He urged Congress to "give us the time we need to study and explore this request and deal with it."

Jews are outraged by 'bible'

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A VIDEO bible depicting Jews as hook-nosed moneylenders has provoked outrage in America.

Jewish groups have denounced the series of tapes, "Animated Stories from the New Testament", as anti-Semitic. But its makers reject the charge and have agreed to alter television advertisements for the video.

The Family Entertainment Network, of Dallas, says hundreds of thousands of tapes have been sold since the first parts of the 12-tape series went on sale three years ago. Jewish groups found out about it only in April when a half-hour "info-mercial" began to be shown on television, telling parents that the tape was "biblically accurate" and "powerful" tool to get "young children excited about the bible".

Critics say the video presents Jews who do not convert to Christianity in anti-Semitic stereotypes reminiscent of Nazi Germany. Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Foundation in Los Angeles, said: "This series puts anti-Semitism into the 21st century. It basically gives it an address in the living room of every American home."

Television stations in Los Angeles, Minneapolis and San Diego have stopped screening the "info-mercial", but it is still being shown elsewhere. Stephen Griffin, of Family Entertainment Network, said the tapes, drawn by former Disney animators, were intended to be as faithful as possible to the King James version of the Bible. The company retains a board of Christian figures to advise on the project's authenticity.

Apologising for any offence, Mr Griffin said the characters were portrayed in a typically Disney fashion: "If we looked at all the bad guys, then I guess that Captain Hook from Peter Pan and the wicked witch from Snow White would be Jewish because they have big noses." He has sent Jewish leaders a modified version of the half-hour commercial, but seems reluctant to meet the cost of changing the tapes.

Kaunda decree expires

Harare - Zambia's state of emergency expired quietly yesterday after being used by President Kaunda to entrench his virtual one-man rule for the past 27 years (Jan Raath writes).

The ending of the system under which Mr Kaunda has been able to detain thousands of opponents and impose martial law, elapsed inconspicuously with the passing of a deadline set by the new democratic constitution he signed last week. Observers in Lusaka say Mr Kaunda preferred to take a low-key approach as the passing of the emergency deprived him of the machinery that has helped to ensure his victory in every election since independence in 1964.

The change weakens his chances in the next poll, the first multi-party elections since 1971, on October 31. The new constitution does permit the president to invoke an emergency, but for only seven days at a time, and then with the approval of parliament.

War crimes

Sydney - Two Australian citizens have been charged in Adelaide under the provisions of the new War Crimes Act with involvement in more than 200 murders in the Ukraine during the second world war. They two men, who originate from Germany and the Ukraine, are expected to be named today.

Wreck spotted

Kuala Lumpur - A search was launched after pilots spotted what might be the wreckage of a missing American company jet, officials said. The plane, owned by Conoco, of Texas, was carrying nine passengers, including two Britons, and three crew when it disappeared from radar screens as it prepared to land. (AP)

Clarinetist dead

Mexico City - Keith Pearson, a clarinet player with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, which is on a Latin American tour, was found dead in a hotel bath here with his wrists cut. Notimex, the official news agency reported. His body was found by Louise Barteger, the orchestra's director, it said. (Reuters)

Tasty dishes

Taipei - A Taiwanese firm says it has invented the world's first range of edible tableware which can be eaten or thrown away after use, with bowls and plates made of cornmeal. They will not cause pollution, it is thrown away, because animals can eat them, a spokesman said. And there is no washing up. (Reuters)

Japanese religious cult recalls 'rush-hour of the gods'

From GARTH ALEXANDER IN TOKYO

CLAIMING to be the reincarnation of Buddha, a Japanese has attracted more than a million believers in the past few months. Ryuhō Okawa, a chubby-checked former trading company clerk aged 35, has been advertising on television and saturating the popular press with full-page colour advertisements. The message of his ministry is also flashed from an airship over Tokyo.

Mr Okawa's "Institute for Research in Human Happiness" hopes to attract ten million adherents by 1994. It has also made him a very rich man and helped him sell 27 million copies of 30 or so books. His message is difficult to understand, particularly when he expounds on the metaphysics of the "ninth dimension". The religion is a jumble

of, among other beliefs, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Shintoism.

Mr Okawa peppers passages in his books with quotes from Lincoln and Caesar. *Laws of the Sun*, his best-selling work with sales of over three million, is based on the predictions of the 16th century French astrologer, Nostradamus. One of his more wishful prophecies is that America will soon vanish.

While Mr Okawa declines to give interviews, his followers are eager to talk to the press. "This will be the leading thought in the 21st century," asserts Dr Fuminori Masugi, a director of the institute. Koichi Inasawa, a lawyer and supporter, adds: "It is going to change Japan." Their claims are not idle boasts. The Soka-Gakkai, a lay movement which traces its roots to Nichiren

Buddhism, has since the second world war attracted ten million believers and established the Komeito (Clean Government party), the third largest political party in Japan, which regularly wins 10 per cent of the total vote in elections. Its daily newspaper claims a circulation of 5.5 million and its annual revenue, based on compulsory contributions by all members, exceeds £400 million.

Thousands of other new religions swept Japan after the end of the war and the subsequent banning of emperor worship. The period is remembered by Japanese as the "rush-hour of the gods". Then extraterrestrial aliens and religions based on the worship of Edison and his discovery of electricity vied with those worshipping faith-healing and exorcism. Many of the cults have

fallen by the wayside. But the total number of registered religious believers in Japan now stands at 230 million, which is almost twice the population. The explanation for the anomaly is that most Japanese do not put all their faith in any religion and believe it is smarter to belong to more than one.

An American Catholic priest who has lived in Japan since 1954 sees a less heartening reason for Mr Okawa's success. "These movements offer a sense of family and community to people who are lonely," he said. "But the factor common to almost all of them is their overriding interest in money."

Last week Friday, the popular Japanese weekly, carried an interview with a woman claiming to be Mr Okawa's former mistress. She was quoted as saying he was a

"psychopath" and "a money-machine". Rowdy and menacing demonstrators have since besieged the publishing company's offices.

Whatever Mr Okawa's psychological hang-ups may be, they certainly do not interfere with his business acumen. Every applicant to his movement is reportedly obliged to buy at least ten of his books and pass a test on their contents. Once applicants have qualified and been admitted to his institute they are obliged to pay a £17 initiation fee and £9 in monthly dues. They are also expected to subscribe to a £5 monthly newsletter and contribute to future fundraising events.

Religion, undoubtedly, is a profitable business in Japan. What makes it heavenly is that, under Japanese laws, all the earnings of a religion, and of its leader, are tax free.

British in
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Independen
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FOOD AID

British industry's leaders to tackle ramshackle system

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of Britain's food industry, who have been asked to investigate Soviet food distribution methods, are to leave before the end of the month on the first leg of their mission. The Soviet Union has the potential to feed itself but consistently fails to do so.

The aim of the industry leaders, according to John Gummer, the agriculture minister, is to help find answers to "the central food enigma of the Soviet Union: they can grow but they cannot deliver".

The delegation, led by Sir Ronald McIntosh, the chairman of the British Food Consortium, is expected to comprise half a dozen members, including the heads of some of Britain's biggest supermarket and food companies. Five or six other groups will follow to investigate aspects of the food shortages in different areas identified by the first team, mainly in the Ukraine, Belorussia, the Baltics and western Russia where British firms like ICI and Dalgely already have a presence.

The mission was announced yesterday after a two-

hour meeting between Mr Gummer and Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, and more than 50 leaders of the food processing, distribution and retailing industries. Although Sir Ronald's team will advise on any emergency food supplies that may be needed, their main aim is the longer-term one of improving the Soviet Union's ramshackle storage and distribution systems. They do not see any risk of famine, or even serious hunger, this winter.

A leading Soviet official, however, was yesterday reported as having said that the Soviet Union urgently needs to buy large amounts of food, from meat and grain to sugar and dairy products, to stave off possible famine. Yuri Luzhkov, responsible for foreign economic affairs in a government group set up after the failed coup, told Michael Wilson, the visiting Canadian international trade minister, that the problems were greater than last year. "The country needs large purchases of grain, fodder, meat, dairy products, sugar, vegetable oil, tea, cocoa and packing materials."

A study just completed by the consortium in the Kiev region of the Ukraine, traditionally the bread basket of the Soviet Union, suggests that up to half the food grown never reaches the consumer. There are few proper storage silos or refrigerated lorries and trains. Raids by mafia-style gangs sometimes lead to the disappearance of whole trainloads of food, and the road network is inadequate.

This year's Soviet grain harvest could amount to 195 million tonnes, which would be an average crop. But about a third of that is likely to be wasted, according to Dudley Coates, who heads a special unit set up by Mr Gummer in the agriculture ministry to co-ordinate the Soviet aid effort. Last year when the Soviet Union grew a record 235 million tonnes, about 20 per cent was allowed to rot in the fields. Losses of perishable food like fruit and vegetables are even higher.

Sir Ronald said that the focus of the British effort would be on improving processes that are primitive or non-existent, such as canning and bottling, the drying and freezing of food, and pasteurisation of milk and orange juice. "The aim is first to provide know-how, which we hope will be followed by capital expenditure either by Russians or by Western investors or by both," he said.

The food industry, like the rest of the Soviet economy, is bedevilled by the legacy of a Stalinist policy that ensured no one region would be industrially self-sufficient and that enterprises would be dependent on supplies from other regions at the other end of the union. To illustrate the problem, Mr Gummer recounted a visit to a sparkling wine factory in Moscow last year.

"The grapes must be brought from Tbilisi in Georgia, 1,500 miles away. When I asked why, they said there was unemployment in Moscow so the factory had been placed there. Then I asked where the bottles came from. They said they had an unemployment problem in Siberia as well so they had built a factory there, 1,000 miles away, to make the bottles," he said. Ending this sort of economic nonsense would take time.

Experts here accept that there will be limits to how fast the Soviet agricultural economy can be converted to a genuine free-market system. At a time of high inflation, increasing freedom of choice for food producers is likely to lead to their holding back produce while waiting for prices to rise. That in turn could lead to a bizarre combination of over-production and under-supply: bulging food stores and empty shelves in the shops.

Sun sets on a flawed empire

Mary Dejevsky analyses the Soviet leader's struggle to hold power

THE Soviet Union has been turned upside down. A three-day abortive coup and half a week of procedural uproar were all that was needed to reverse the balance of power. From yesterday the Soviet centre ceased to exist as an autonomous unit dispensing power downwards. Power now flows upwards from which ever republics and regions choose to make up the successor state.

The speed with which Soviet central power was dismantled shows how unstable the power structure had already become. Two successive elections, first for a national, then for a republic parliament, a referendum on the future of the Union and the Russian Federation's presidential election, had all eaten away at the old centre.

Soviet Union is now a loose confederation, bound together by a series of interim committees, the highest of which - the Council of State - is chaired by a state president who has no other function and no electoral mandate. This is the minimalist version of the Union, favoured by the confederalists, and it is only temporary, until the republics can agree how to arrange their affairs in future.

President Gorbachev's own preference had always been for the maximum number of republics plus the centre. As state president, he now finds himself insecurely perched on top of something that may come to resemble less a political union than an economic community. He has no popular mandate. He was "elected" to office by the Congress of People's Deputies, which yesterday accepted that it was unlikely to function again. In the new Council of State he shares responsibility for the only remaining central institutions, the army, the KGB and the interior ministry, with the heads of the other republics.

Moreover, each of these central institutions is unstable. The passage of the coup revealed that they were not just riddled with cracks, but would break under pressure. If it did nothing else, the coup must have convinced Mr Gorbachev that the old centre on which his power rested could not survive.

The decision not to continue the post of vice-president is one sign of the weakened presidency. If the president is incapacitated in future, his power, such as it is, will pass to the Council of State, which is where in



Handing over power: President Gorbachev at the People's Congress meeting

reality it already resides.

Over the past three years, Mr Gorbachev tried repeatedly to find a formula that would provide the Soviet Union with an effective and stable administration. Time and again, he failed. Just over two years ago, the first Congress of People's Deputies marked the beginning of popular Soviet politics, but the standing parliament which it spawned proved a disappointment.

By early 1990, Mr Gorbachev relinquished his chairmanship of parliament and turned the head of state's post into an executive presidency with additional powers. The chairmanship of parliament passed to his then ally, Anatoli Lukyanov. The executive presidency made no difference. His decrees went increasingly unheeded.

Last autumn and again in February, Mr Gorbachev was pressed by conservatives to take extra powers to "bring order". Although he took the extra powers, they had no effect. His decrees were scorned in many

republics and had at most a paralysing effect in others.

Government changes had just as little effect. Under the presidential system, the Council of Ministers was initially subordinate to parliament and accountable to it. But it continued as a power centre on its own, distinct from the presidency. In January, Mr Gorbachev made its successor, the Cabinet of Ministers, directly subordinate to the president and jointly accountable to him and to parliament - to no avail.

The central government was still a self-sufficient empire, able through its branch ministries to intervene in economic development in the republics. The defence minister, interior minister and KGB chief formed another autonomous group. By April, Mr Gorbachev was seeking yet another mechanism for governing an increasingly ungovernable country, this time through the Union Treaty which was negotiated primarily with the republic structures, circum-

venting the government and the central parliament.

The treaty, in the sweep of its general principles and in its structure, had much in common with the United States constitution. In each edition, however, there was a pervasive, but indefinable, difference. The verbal shell was democratic, but the spirit was missing.

After the coup the nature of the discrepancy became clear. The underlying assumption of the American constitution is that power flows from below, that each elected official holds power only courtesy of his electors, who can recall him at any moment. So long as the old centre existed, no Soviet constitutional document could make that assumption, for power resided elsewhere.

The former power-holders have been swept away, or rather they swept themselves away in their short-lived rebellion.

From now on, the republics can be judged according to the way each governs itself.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgia closes local papers

Tbilisi - Demonstrators demanding the resignation of the Georgian president protested yesterday as the republic's parliament closed almost all Georgian-language newspapers and the prime minister banned many exports.

A resolution of the parliament said it was necessary to close the newspapers "in view of an acute shortage of paper resources". Tass reported. But opposition groups and local journalists said the move appeared to be aimed at giving the Georgian government greater control over the media.

Western critics have accused Zviad Gamsakhurdia, a former political prisoner, of human rights abuses and fomenting ethnic hatred since he won a parliamentary landslide last October and subsequently became the republic's president. Georgia and other republics in the Caucasus have a strong tradition of political violence and iron-fisted governments. Georgia has declared independence from the Soviet Union.

The Georgian prime minister, Vissarion Gugushvili, prohibited the export of food, industrial goods, construction material, timber and minerals yesterday, according to Tass. Such goods are in short supply in many parts of the Soviet Union.

Pugo wife dies

Moscow - The wife of Boris Pugo, the former interior minister who was one of the leaders of the coup against President Gorbachev, has died of the self-inflicted gunshot wound she received at the time of her husband's suicide immediately after the coup's failure, officials said. She was not named. (AP)

Party loyalty

Peking - The commissars of China's army have ordered the political indoctrination of troops to be stepped up in the wake of the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, a military source said. A meeting of the commissars drew up a plan to keep the soldiers loyal to the Chinese Communist party. (AFP)

Crimea opts out

Moscow - The Crimea's regional parliament has voted to become an autonomous and independent republic within the Ukraine, which has itself declared independence from the Soviet Union, Tass reported. The Crimea was transferred from Russia to the Ukraine in 1954. (Reuters)

Family reunion

London - Oleg Gordievsky, the KGB defector, is preparing for an emotional reunion with his family after six years' separation. However, the Foreign Office said that Mr Gordievsky had decided not to meet his wife, Leila, and their daughters, Maria and Anna, at Heathrow.

THE BALTICS

Independence may come today

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A DECREE granting the three Baltic states their independence may be the first action of the interim Soviet leadership formed yesterday.

Boris Pankin, the new Soviet foreign minister, said yesterday that a decision would be taken at today's inaugural meeting of the Council of State, the collective body which will take all state decisions from now on. The Council of State comprises the Soviet president and "the leaders of the union republics named in the USSR constitution".

This formulation means that the three Baltic leaders could take part and cast their vote. At least three other republics - the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Kirghizia - have already recognised Baltic independence.

The question of Baltic independence had been on the original agenda for this week's Congress of People's Deputies but was shelved, apparently because of fears that it might not attract the two-thirds majority needed for constitutional changes. Baltic representatives and Soviet officials have been negotiating all week

to find a formula acceptable to both sides and to the other Soviet republics.

According to Nikolai Medvedev, a deputy from Lithuania, the focus was the precise wording of any decree and whether it would just declare null and void the secret clause of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact which ceded the Baltic states to the Soviet Union, or would also fix the frontiers of the three republics within their present boundaries.

Aleksandr Yakovlev, a close associate of President Gorbachev, had earlier said that Baltic independence would probably be granted by presidential decree at the end of the congress. It appears likely, however, that decrees will, in future, be issued not by Mr Gorbachev, but by the Council of State. As is set out in the law passed yesterday, "decisions of the Council of State are binding".

Mr Yakovlev, who resigned from Mr Gorbachev's staff because of disagreements over the future of the Communist party, chaired a parliamentary committee into the annexation of the Baltics two years ago. It acknowledged that the annexation was unlawful, but concluded that nothing could be done because the Baltics were incorporated irrevocably into the Soviet political and economic system.

A decision by the Soviet leadership to recognise Baltic independence would provide an ideal overture for the Helsinki follow-up conference on human rights which opens in Moscow on Tuesday. Mr Gorbachev decided that the conference, to be attended by more than 6,000 people, should proceed despite the interruption to preparations caused by last month's coup.



Pankin: Council of State will make the decision

RAOUL WALLENBERG

KGB files fail to enlighten Swedes

From AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MOSCOW

DOCUMENTS given by the KGB to the Swedish authorities neither indicated that Raoul Wallenberg was alive in the 1980s, nor undermined the Soviet claim that he died in 1947, a KGB official said yesterday.

He was speaking at a press conference the day after five documents from KGB files on the Swedish diplomat, who saved thousands of Jews from the Nazis, were handed to the Swedes. Mr Wallenberg's relatives insist that he was seen by fellow inmates at Vladimir prison, 120 miles from Moscow, in the 1980s.

Nikolai Stolyanov, vice-chairman of the KGB, said: "None of the documents allow it to be said that Raoul Wallenberg is still alive." They did not alter the Soviet account that he died of a heart attack in a Moscow prison in 1947, he added.

Mr Wallenberg provided thousands of Hungarian Jews

with Swedish passports, thus preventing them from being deported to death camps, while serving at the Swedish embassy in German-occupied Budapest during the second world war. He also bribed Nazi and Hungarian fascist officials and dealt with Adolf Eichmann, a key figure in the murder of the Jews. The Red Army arrested him after the Soviet Union occupied Hungary at the end of the war. He has not been seen since.

Mr Stolyanov displayed copies of the documents given to the Swedes: a military report alluding to the arrest; a list of persons arrested on February 6, 1945; an extract from a letter by a German officer held in the same prison as Mr Wallenberg and filed in 1949; a report by a diplomat in Budapest on the Swede's activities; and a KGB note dated March 2, 1948, stating that Mr Wallenberg had died the previous year.

Leading article, page 17

HALF PRICE WALLCOVERING

CLEARANCE AT B&Q

HURRY £1/2 MILLION OF QUALITY STOCK MUST GO!

We're clearing 1/2 million of top brand wallcoverings at half price to make way for the new season's patterns. Please phone to check availability before travelling

TOP BRAND NAMES HALF PRICE	
CROWN CALYPSO WASHABLE WALLPAPER Pattern No. 17506 WAS £3.32 NOW £1.66 per roll	MAYFAIR MEADOWS VINYL WALLCOVERING Pattern No. 34810 WAS £5.61 NOW £2.80 per roll
VYMURA INTERNATIONAL VINYL WALLCOVERING Pattern No. 06-710 WAS £4.12 NOW £2.99 per roll	CROWN WALLPAPER Pattern No. BQ 2096 WAS £3.57 NOW £1.78 per roll

OPEN 8AM TO 8PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY Most stores now open Sundays 9am to 6pm, please phone 081-200 0200 for more details. Offers are subject to availability. All prices include V.A.T. Prices may vary in Northern Ireland and B&Q DEPOT. Some of our smaller Supercentres do not have the full range of products, please phone to check before travelling.

No place for the children

Whining and dining en famille — a personal argument against little pests in public places

The news that Hyatt hotels are to corral children in special areas will no doubt bring howls of outrage from parents whose idea of a good time in a restaurant involves cutting up someone else's portion as well as one's own.

There will be some, though, whose first reaction is one of glee and whose second is "why stop there?". This could be the start of a programme of sweeping reforms in almost every area of public and private life. It would be a timely and much needed antidote to the notion that doing things en famille is the only way.

During the past few years the British, reeling under accusations of being a nation of child haters, have allowed the boundaries between the world of adults and the world of children to become blurred. It is now virtually impossible to eat, drink, shop, travel or be entertained without hearing the thud, thud of tiny trainer-shod feet.



The enemy? Out for a walk under close restraint

Restaurants are an obvious starting point. Fast food chains apart, there is no happy eating ground which can cater satisfactorily for both: children eat different food at a faster pace and louder volume — and always want to go to the lavatory in the middle of the meal. Forget those cosy notions of how the French and Italians do it: in this country the family that dines together whines together.

Pubs, too, should resist the trend that is turning them into playgrounds for children instead of playgrounds for adults. Although some noble landlords hold out by making "family rooms" as hospitable as Colditz, others let the side down by offering kids' menus, kids' cocktails and welcoming smiles.

If children were banned from all forms of transport, they would, of course, have fewer opportunities to be so intrusive. Children and

trains do not mix for journeys of longer than half an hour which is the time it takes them to eat their picnic, colour in their activity book and run through every carriage twice.

Trains, though, are nothing compared with planes, where the only advantage of having children with you is that you have a good excuse for taking a handful of offered sweets — instead of just one. A veteran traveller friend, though a non-smoker, always plumps for the smoking section on the basis that it will be child-free.

When you put children in an adult environment, strange laws of nature start to apply. For instance, why does the toy car being varoomed along the table always fall into the lap of the passenger immersed in a book and not into that of the grandmotherly type so keen to be friends? Why, too, should it be that a bag of crisps, normally opened in a second in the home, proves so impenetrable in the cinema and has to be passed

to a parent to open with teeth? Indeed, why is it that a child who can follow every plot development in *Neighbours* while standing on his head should need the story of *Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves* explained to him every five minutes at the Odeon?

This fervour to exclude children in every single activity is, alas, not confined to public places. Many a contemporary dinner guest finds she must endure small talk, literally, with her host's offspring or, worse, a mini cabaret. The phrase "Josh has been practising his recorder specially for you" is one to chill the blood of even the most tolerant.

Similarly, it is not cute for small children to answer the telephone, particularly if the call is likely to be a business one, since this obliges the caller to start speaking like a *Playbus* presenter.

The worst offenders in all this tend to be what one might call "professional parents", those for whom child rearing is not simply an ordinary part of life, but a special project which must be catered for, even indulged, whatever the inconvenience to others.

Those now rushing to book in at a Hyatt hotel may care to take the opportunity of tranquility to ponder other measures: children muzzled in parks, for instance; given buggy routes, like cycle routes, through towns; booked into guard's vans on trains; chained up outside supermarkets. One subscriber to this new movement will surely be the mother I saw in a supermarket recently whose fractious five-year-old overturned the trolley on top of herself. As the load started to keel over onto the child the mother stretched out her arms — and saved the bottle of gin.

OLIVIA JAMES

On the banned wagon



Smooth talker: Rupert Howell says there is "a difference between doing something deliberately to get it banned and doing stuff if, in the event it gets banned, you make the most of it"

Time to explore the evil world of advertising. The world where tiny, blood-boiled babies are exploited on every roadside in order to sell lime green jumpers. The world that has made the innocent act of eating an ice-cream riddled with undertones of pornography. The world where two unmarried pensioners start necking in a laundrette with the sole purpose of selling Fuji film.

Amid all the furore this week over the withdrawn Benetton newborn baby posters, we look back fondly on the days before sin and subtlety entered advertising, when products were of two types: they either washed whiter or were sunshine breakfasts for all the family. They did not ask us to confront our morality, racism or sexuality.

They merely asked us to shell out. Besides, if the worst suspicions are true, many advertisers are secretly hoping for a banning order since the ensuing publicity will create an orgy of interest, and save much money on poster sites.

Someone has to come out and defend the poor beleaguered advertising industry. Someone has to convince us, the punters, of its integrity. Stand up Rupert Howell, of Howell, Henry, Chaldecott, Lury (HHCL) — perpetrator of pornographic ice-cream and pensioners — and sell yourself.

Two hours later, we, the punters, are still undergoing the sales pitch from the man at the vanguard of the new radicalism in advertising. "I am absolutely convinced that Benetton did not do that to get it banned. The whole way they work with their photographer [the Italian Oliviero Toscani] is to give him carte blanche to create anything that fits their united colours theme." Previous Benetton advertisements for the continental market have included a nun and a priest kissing and a black mother breastfeeding a

In the wake of Benetton babies and pornographic ice-cream, Rupert Howell tries to convince Kate Muir of the ad industry's integrity

white baby, and Mr Howell believes the baby poster is in keeping with Benetton's avowed purpose of challenging stereotypes. He is more than admiring. "It was a striking image, a quick image, a positive image. My wife had a baby four weeks ago, so I find it very uplifting." He thinks that using such a strong image in the most public medium, the poster, was perhaps ill-considered, because children might be frightened by the blood. "That kind of image is better in a magazine, where you choose the audience."

Mr Howell is sympathetic because he, too, has suffered from censorship. His agency is doing battle in the \$7 billion international ice-cream wars, between the American Haagen-Dazs and the British New England brand.

Haagen-Dazs, as is apparent from any magazine, is selling sex, with a little ice-cream thrown in. Its campaign shows Oregon Strawberry and Chocolate Chip in compromising positions with a three-quarters-naked couple.

But HHCL had two of its New England television commercials banned a few weeks ago by the Independent Television Commission for much, much worse than that.

The commercial which most offended goes like this: girl of about 16 sits wearing pink leggings etc on sofa. We are in the position of the television, watching her. The Saturday football results are being read with the traditional singsong intonation: "Arsenal Nil,

Leeds Nil... Tottenham Nil, Chelsea Nil..." The girl starts eating her tub of ice-cream. "Oooohhhhh," she groans, in pure ecstasy. The girl draws down on. "Mmmmmmmmmmm," she says, louder and louder, scooping more and more. Her leg twitches. She is out of control, groaning and squealing. Cut to product and slogan: "One taste and you're away."

The commercial is a rip-off of the scene in the film *When Harry Met Sally* in which Meg Ryan takes an orgasm at a restaurant

added sincerity-value. "I do think there's a difference, a moral difference, between doing something deliberately to get it banned, and doing stuff if, in the event it gets banned that you make the most of. You could argue that's only a semantic difference," he says, zooming in for eye contact, "but I believe it's an important one." He suspects one or two charities got shocked advertisements banned, because the editorial publicity is as good as a campaign they could not really afford.

He points to the example of Hennes, the Swedish fashion chain, which took advantage of a ruling by the Advertising Standards Authority that its underwear campaign "was sexist. Hennes ran another advertisement saying 57 women complained about their underwear poster, but no men."

By now, we, the punters, are like fresh converts to a new religion. We believe every word. We are inspired, yet somehow calmed, by his picture of the advertising trade, no profession.

Warmly, we remember HHCL's landmark campaign together — Jim Dunk for Molson Lager, laundry baskets for First Direct banking, Desmond Dekker's *Is-railies* for Maxwell tapes. "Because one day you'll die" for Pepe Jeans, and Harry Enfield for Mercury telephones. And we look forward to the Danepak commercial this month — a group of naturists sitting in a glade eating bacon. We enquire after the genius whizz-kid's career — on the board of the agency Young and Rubicam at 27,

a managing partner of his own firm now, aged 34. We recall that HHCL was only founded in October 1987, and now has billings of £59 million this year.

We discuss his recent Fuji film campaign, which attacked stereotypes, with three mini-dramas of a dignified Asian woman being ostracised by white mothers outside a school, the kissing pensioners, and a mentally handicapped man working in a supermarket being ignored by customers. So far, it has had 118 complaints. The style of the campaign came from a photograph of the poll tax riots, where a couple kiss in the foreground, while the carnage continues. "It kind of said a million things about the weird world we live in."

Like Benetton, Mr Howell says he cannot see why commercial, and social interests cannot be fused. He fights against the sexist portrayal of women in the industry, and says the usual excuse that advertisements only reflect society, is wrong. His work, he muses, can challenge stereotypes, and as the role of advertising expands with capitalism, so will its responsibilities.

HHCL now gives New Age briefings about interconnectedness and the environment, and then sells the money-making concept. Mr Howell and his fellow directors can take this high moral tone because they have made personal sacrifices to save the world: i.e., they come to work by public transport. Mr Howell traded in his Ferrari for a Tube pass when HHCL was created.

He believes advertising's time as a sleazy, money-grabbing trades is over. "People who make jokes like, 'My mother doesn't think I work in advertising. She thinks I play piano in a brothel' show down that they are actually rather embarrassed about being in this profession. I'm not."

'It was a striking image, a positive image. My wife had a baby four weeks ago, so I find it very uplifting'

Beware, black puddings are flying this weekend

BLACK pudding knocking, a possible qualifier as one of the least known of sports, holds its world championship this weekend. The sport dates from 1838, and centres on the Corner Pin pub, at Stubbins, near Ramsbottom in Lancashire.

The landlord, Jimmy Cunliffe, explains: "When Yorkshire folk were passing through Stubbins on their way to a day out at the seaside, they would stop here for a drink. But the ale was so strong that they often got in to scraps with the locals, and a landlord at the time decided that a competition was needed as a diversion from the fighting."

The rules are simple. A plinth is built high up on the outside wall of the pub, on which a pile of Yorkshire puddings is placed. Contestants try to knock off as many as possible with one lob of a black pudding from 20 paces. Umpiring is strict.

Participation in the sport remained purely local until 1988, when Mr Cunliffe realised that its 150th anniversary coincided with that of the pub's brewers, Samuel Webster & Wilsons. The brewery agreed to sponsor the event, and this year entrants, who simply turn up on the day, are expected from all over Britain and abroad, heavily outnumbering the locals. Teams and individual competitors are expected from the United States, South Africa, Australia, Hong

Ramsbottom finds its moment of cultural glory

Kong, Italy, Yugoslavia, and Germany.

In the meantime, the world champion, Nicholas Jinks, a 25-year-old insurance agent from nearby Bury, is limbering up to defend his title. Last year he knocked over 12 Yorkshire puddings, beating the previous total of eight.

'The advantage must be with locals who are at home with black puddings'

"I feel the advantage must be with locals like me who are at home with black puddings and have plenty of chance to train with the genuine article," Mr Jinks says. "It is, of course, very glamorous to be world black pudding knocker, and I shall be going all out to enjoy the perks of the title for another year."

The glamour of the event has reached international proportions, thanks to pub customers taking posters advertising the competition

abroad on holiday and business trips. "There are posters on the Berlin Wall — or what's left of it," Mr Cunliffe says, "and the Kremlin, and some local mountaineers even took one up the Matterhorn."

Mr Cunliffe has had plenty of opportunity to observe the sport's most skillful players in action. "Success is decided not by the force of the throw but by accuracy. Ideally, it needs a delicate underarm job, which brings the black pudding down smack on top of the Yorkshire puddings, causing maximum disturbance."

This weekend, there are solo and team categories for men and women, and several hundred competitors are expected. Entrants will be practising tomorrow before the serious pudding chucking on Sunday. Winners get trophies and prizes.

Anyone can enter — there is a small fee which goes to charity, this year to an appeal in aid of a local teenager suffering from Hodgkinson's disease.

Mr Cunliffe insists that pudding knocking is not a leg-pull. "It is a genuine tradition which has become part of local culture. In fact, if Manchester plays host to the Olympic Games in the year 2000, then black pudding knocking would make an ideal warm-up event to illustrate part of our life-style in the region."

BERNARD SILK
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The Netherlands has the world's lowest rate of teenage pregnancy. Could it teach Britain a lesson?

Going Dutch on sex



A difficult subject: sex education is more haphazard in Britain than in The Netherlands

about a boy with Aids, and features on how to use a condom and what girls want.

"We also train parents. For instance, if a primary school asks us to train its teachers, as part of the programme we talk to the parents first. When children are that age it is probably better if most of the information comes first from the parents. The problem is that many parents find it extremely difficult to talk to very young children about sex. We teach them it can be easy."

With older children, however, Ms Vanderdoef believes the balance shifts. "It can be more helpful if the children are learning in groups. It's no good a boy asking his mother, 'What does a girl want from me?' A parent is a parent — not a girl any more. But the girls in

the group can give an answer." Jany Rademakers, a researcher at Nisso, the Dutch Institute for Socio-sexological research, says one reason for The Netherlands' low teenage pregnancy and abortion rates is that the Dutch are pragmatic, not moralistic, about sex education, and contraceptive services for teenagers.

She says: "Our parents say, 'If you think you are old enough to have sex, be sensible and use a contraceptive.' But we also know that most children find parents the most difficult group to talk to. So we have educational programmes on radio and television. We have educational programmes within the school system and outside. We feel that this should be the

responsibility of society in general, not the school or the parents alone."

In Britain, the last in-depth study on sex education was published by the Policy Studies Institute in 1987. The study showed that 96 per cent of parents said that schools should provide sex education, and over a quarter preferred the school to take sole responsibility for all aspects of this.

Yet Shirley Prendergast, who is supervising a survey into sex education in Cambridge schools and will speak at a briefing hosted by the Health Promotion Research Trust later this month, says that young people find teaching about the body at school embarrassing, too general and too insensitive to the different needs of girls and boys.

Although some study of human reproduction is compulsory as part of the national curriculum, it is up to a school's governing body to determine what else, if anything, is offered. The RCOG has called for a national programme of sex education, and for every school to have a teacher trained in the subject. This might solve some problems but, for the moment, parents are left — some reluctantly — to fill in the gaps.

Even when parents are prepared to talk to their children about sex they are often at a loss to know how best to do so. It may, as the Dutch suggest, be better to be pragmatic, but there is also the risk of being so matter of fact that the sexual act is presented as nothing more than just another bodily function.

Dilys Went, an associate fellow of Warwick university who trains teachers in sex education, admits that finding appropriate material for the intermediate age group — children entering puberty — is tricky. However, the Family Planning Association is publishing a pamphlet next January, *Answering Your Child's Questions* will be one of three in a series called "Growing Up", aimed at parents of ten to 14-year-olds.

Perhaps, the best way forward is a joint one. Or in the words of Ms Went: "Schools may provide the core of sex education, but that should be backed up by parents and by the community. It should really be team teaching."

LEE RODWELL
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1991

because animals can eat them, a spokesman said. And there is no washing up. (Reuter)

the metaphysics of the "mim dimension". The religion is a jumble

which traces its roots to Nichiren

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GALLERIES: OUT OF LONDON

Good show, shame about the polemic

John Russell Taylor on work by women artists from 1850 to 1940, watercolours by Malcolm Morley and the contrasting sculpture of Andrew Logan and Peter Peri

Germaine Greer called her history of women's art *The Obstacle Race*. That implication is heartily endorsed in one of the new shows at the Tate Liverpool. Echo: Works by Women Artists 1850-1940, which has been put together by Maud Salter, recently in residence as the gallery's third Momart Fellow. It is an interesting combination of familiar and unfamiliar works from the Tate's collections, with Vanessa Bell, Anna Lea Merritt and Frances Hodgkins emerging with particular vividness. The trouble is the weight of polemic it is made to shoulder.

For Salter, no Miltons were mute and inglorious unless they were women, and if they were women it goes without saying that they would be suppressed and ignored by the dominant male establishment. Her accompanying text is like a parody of feminist art history (or "herstory" as she will have it), full of wild sexist generalisations. Time, especially linked with awareness of death, is an area of male dictation, and linear constructions of time are exclusively patriarchal. In accepting that she is "a piece of the town, a bit of blown dust, thrust along with the crowd" Amy Lowell "articulates a particularly feminine response to the modern city", while the "masculine flâneur" rejects this and reacts in fear to "women being let loose in the city".

And so on through the familiar litany. Feminist art historians have done fine work, but this sort of twaddle brings the whole notion of feminist art history into disrepute. The catalogue of the other Tate show, *Malcolm Morley Watercolours*, at least demonstrates that women have no monopoly in inflated and pretentious claptrap. Morley is an English artist who moved to America in 1958, before his Royal College graduation, and has stayed. He and the catalogue insist rather nervously on his continuing Englishness, a matter which occasioned some comment when he won the first Turner Prize in 1984. The catalogue also argues for his essential modernism. Some years ago he probably was modern, in that

he painted carefully enlarged reproductions of postcards, with the accent on the "impersonality" then fashionable.

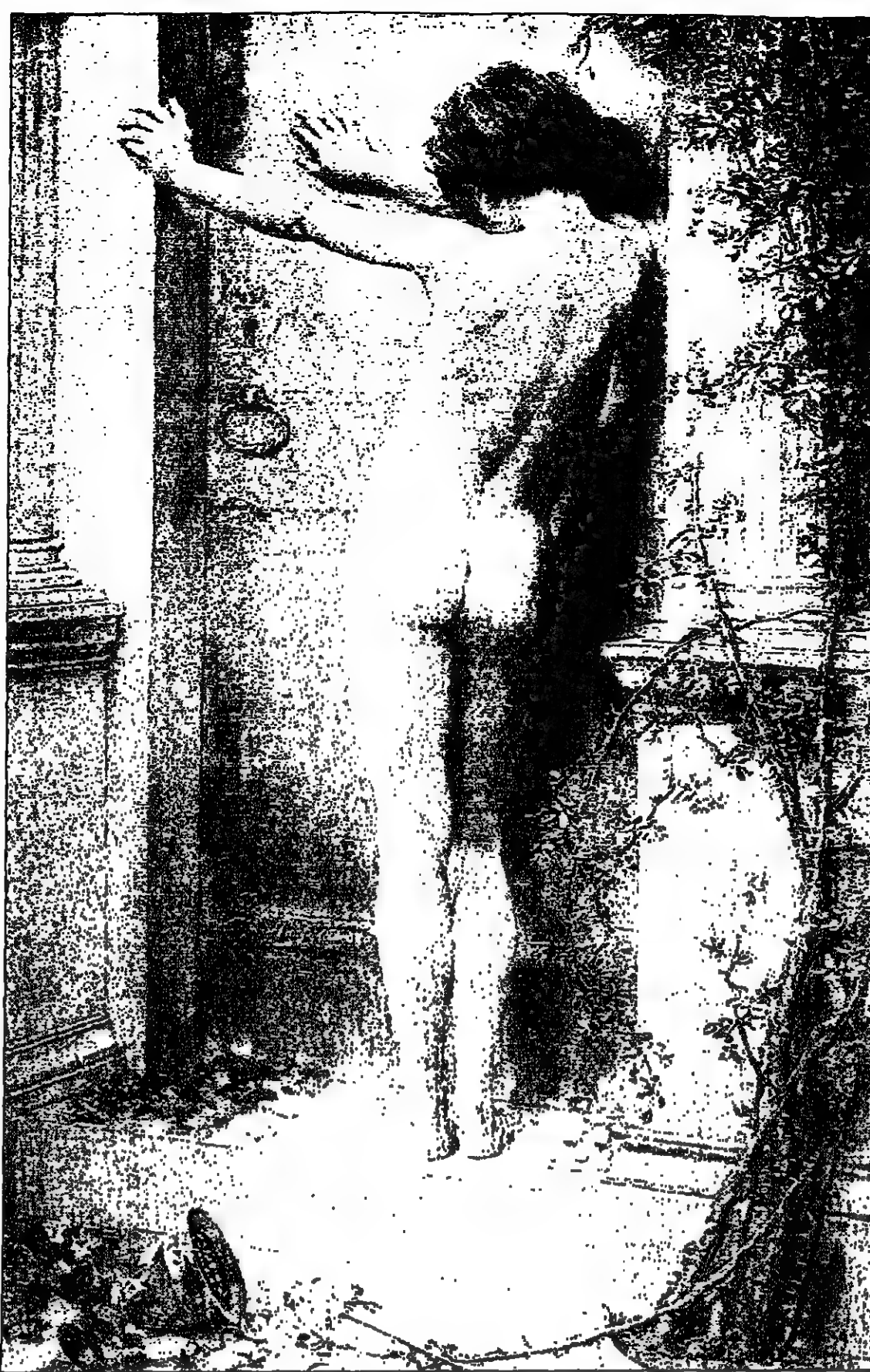
There is nothing wrong with being a bright and easy painter who goes to exotic places and comes back with splashy records of things seen: everything here would fit in perfectly with a Royal Academy summer show or a Royal Watercolour Society Open. But as a Turner Prize-winner and an artist featured in "A New Spirit in Painting" and "Zeitgeist" his avant-garde credentials have to be insisted on. That does nobody a service.

Neither Andrew Logan nor his work is anything like as silly as they sometimes appear. After all, Logan has just achieved something apparently beyond the reach of any other 20th century British sculptor, even Henry Moore: he has managed to open his own museum, dedicated entirely to his own work, in the wilds of Mid-Wales, and carried it off with all the showbiz flair that might be expected from one who is famed principally as the inventor and impresario of the Alternative Miss World contest.

Of course, a visit to The Andrew Logan Museum of Sculpture in Berriew, Powys, is in many ways an excursion into camp. But on the spot it turns out to be a lot more than that. Logan, by refusing solemnity, has often been accused of frivolity. How can you take seriously a man who dresses weirdly, spends a lot of time gathering together freaks and oddballs so that they can revel in and exhibit their difference, and devotes the rest of his career to making colourful and grotesque sculptures, costumes and jewellery out of broken mirrors and hard plastics?

Such a view assumes that there is only one kind of artistic integrity, and that it has a straight face. But with so much of Logan's work gathered together in one place, it is clear that he possesses an enviable dedication and almost obsessive dedication. Somebody once asked James Thurber why his women lacked sex-appeal. "They appeal to my men," he replied philosophically.

Logan might react in the same way if asked why his art is not beautiful: to him it is. This is not lack of taste or bad taste; it is alternative taste. Peter Peri could hardly be more different from Andrew Logan in every conceivable way, given that they are both sculptors. For Peri life was agonisingly real and earnest: so much is clear from his work. In John Berger's novel *A Painter of Our Time*, the hero is quite clearly based on Peri and even uses many of his own words. Peri was Hungarian, born in 1899, his original name being Laszlo Weiss. He was apprenticed to a Budapest mason, and



Familiar but vivid image: *Love Locked Out*, 1889, by Anna Lea Merritt, at the Tate Gallery Liverpool

settled in Berlin in 1920 after being expelled from France for revolutionary activities. He worked as an architect as well as a sculptor, and much of his sculpture was bound up with building. After phases of Expressionism and Constructivism he lighted in 1927 upon the social-realist style which sustained him until his death in 1967.

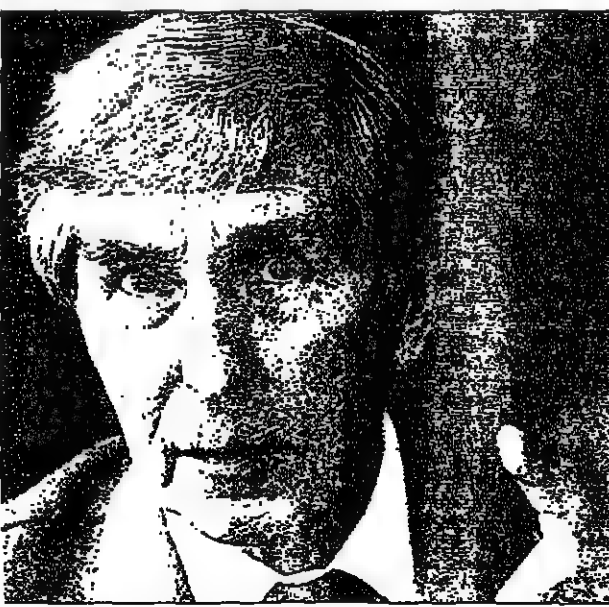
Almost all the extensive retrospective of his sculpture and graphics at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery is concerned with the work he did in England after he fled from the Nazis in 1933. The venue is appropriate: several of Peri's projects after the war were for Leicestershire schools.

And though the two principal series of etchings, for *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Gulliver's Travels*, indicate a streak of fantasy in his imaginative makeup that otherwise one would not have suspected, it is as a master of the sculptural depiction of everyday life that he continues to be unique. Some sensible points of comparison with Logan do arise. For one thing, they both, in their different ways, like to use basic, non-precious materials. For Logan it may be broken mirrors, while for Peri it was tinted concrete, but both are within hailing distance of such postwar ideals as *Arte Povera* and *Art Brut*.

CLASSICAL MUSIC: INTERVIEW

Great but not grand old man

Composer Sir Michael Tippett talks to Stephen Pettitt about his latest British premiere, part of tonight's Prom concert



Sir Michael Tippett: 86 years old, impish and colourful

At the age of 86, the grand old man of British music behaves neither grandly nor as an old man. Sir Michael Tippett wears outrageously bright colours, and enjoys a bit of sauciness. He winks impishly after delivering some mind-blowing profundity and professes admiration for the Marx Brothers and *La Cage aux Folles*. And still he takes an active interest in politics and pacifism, and enthusiastically attempts walks that many men 20 years younger would be loath to tackle. Were it not for a recent fire that damaged his covered pool, he would still be taking a daily swim. He is also as busy as ever in his work. His autobiography, *Those Twentieth Century Blues*, is published on September 19. Written with the considerable help of Tippett's friend and assistant, the critic Melvyn Bowen — who taped, transcribed and put into workable order their conversations — the book entertainingly, frankly and touchingly outlines the inward and outward aspects of an extraordinary life. "Part of me doesn't like it at all," he says. "But now that it's finished I feel better." He is also the subject of a BBC 2 documentary, *Song of Experience*, to be shown with a brazenly hi-tech studio production of his fifth opera, *New Year*, on September 21.

Best of all, he still composes, "though nowadays I only work at the desk for an hour and a half, two hours at the most, each morning." So although it receives its European premiere in the Albert Hall tonight, *Byzantium* — his 25-minute setting for soprano and orchestra of W.B. Yeats' concentrated, late poem, which received its world premiere in Chicago under Solti last May — is not his latest work. That title goes to the Fifth String Quartet, though a commission by the London

Symphony Orchestra, scheduled to have its premiere in 1995 when both composer and orchestra will be 90, is already under way. That piece will be called *The Rose Lake*, and is inspired by Lac Rose in Senegal, whose translucent and ever-changing colours Tippett recently observed when on holiday. His general principle has been to set his own texts, ever since he consulted T.S. Eliot about *A Child of Our Time* in the war years. Eliot told him that "you should not take words for setting to music where the poet has already given that magic to the words which you want to give to this music". Why the change of heart for *Byzantium*? "I get things in a funny way. After *The Mask of Time* and *New Year*, which are in many ways complementary pieces, I felt

began to appear. The middle bit was unclear, but I knew it was going to be the strongest. Then the outer things fell away; I wanted something that was one piece."

What about the choice of one of Yeats' most dense poems, and thus possibly the hardest to set to music? "I've known the poem, of course, for a long time. Especially certain quotes like 'Those images that yet / Fresh images beget / That dolphin-torn, that gong-tormented sea'. Looking at it again, I began to see that Yeats was saying that there is value in the artefact, something almost polarised against 'the fury and the mire of human veins'."

Yeats appears to have worked hard at getting *Byzantium* as perfect as he could by chiselling away at it, throwing away and inserting lines and individual words, so that finally he arrived at a single point of crystalline intensity. Tippett extends the five verses of *Byzantium* into what Bowen has called a "new domain of musical imagery" that "thrives on the Yeatsian polarity between the actual and the visionary". The soloist in tonight's Proms performance is Fay Robinson, who replaced Jessye Norman at a late stage in Chicago. The Proms audience will hear a whole range of suddenly juxtaposed, contrasted ideas; a virtuosic, often impassioned vocal line; and an orchestral score of typically vivid images and colours, testifying to the continuing freshness, depth and joy of Tippett's composition.

Those Twentieth Century Blues is published by Hutchinson on September 19 at £16.99. The Proms performance of *Byzantium* is at the Albert Hall (Kensington Gore, London SW7) tonight at 7.30pm, and live on Radio 3.

RECORDS: ROCK

Only a demigod from a machine

The irony of Tin Machine II is that the more David Bowie merges his personality and songwriting style with those of the other three members of his neo-heavy-rock band, the more the group's work sounds like a conventional David Bowie album.

The first Tin Machine album was an inspired, off-the-wall and essentially spontaneous operation, with many roaring tracks slapped down in one take by a group of individuals some of whom had only met each other a few hours previously. Given that free-form situation, guitarist Reeves Gabrels and drummer Hunt Sales were able to stamp their bold scrawl all over the clean slate, while Bowie was restrained from altering the preliminary drafts of his lyrics and refining his performances to their usual sophistication.

Tin Machine II is a significantly more manicured production and this time round it is Bowie's contribution in the words, melody and vocals departments which inexorably overshadows the efforts of his confrères, even allowing for the fact that two out of the 12 tracks are written and sung by Hunt Sales.

While "Baby Universal", "A Big Hurt" and "Stateside" are played in the thump and bash style of the first Tin Machine album, more typical are "Shopping for Girls", "Goodbye Mr. Ed" and the mysteriously glowering "You Belong in Rock 'n' Roll", songs which could have turned up in exactly the same form on any Bowie album of the last ten years. They are good numbers, but they lack the incendiary, tumbling-off-

Tin Machine: Tin Machine II (London/Victoria 828 272-1) Level 42: Guaranteed (RCA PD 75055)

a-cliff quality that made the early Tin Machine material such an exhilarating experience. As a band they are beginning to sound like a safe, house-trained unit, a sturdy vehicle for Bowie's talent, but no longer such a strident alternative to the previous direction of his work.

Guaranteed is the album which lost Level 42 their contract with Polydor. The record company insisted that improvements be made before the album was released. The group took umbrage, then legal advice, and are now signed to a different company. You can see what Polydor was driving at, because although *Guaranteed* offers the usual Level 42 ingredients — immaculately produced, breezy, pop-soul fusion underpinned by Mark King's fidgeting slap bass — it is a strangely lacklustre collection with scarcely a memorable chorus from start to finish.

The band's objections to tampering with the contents would have made more sense if it was a difficult or challenging work on a purely artistic level. But even with saxophonist Gary Barnacle, keyboard player (and co-producer) Wally Badarou and wayward guitar virtuoso Allan Holdsworth currently in the ranks, the temptation to show off or strike out in new directions is firmly resisted, and the muted quality persists.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ROCK NEWS

Tower Records will be opening their branches in Kensington, Piccadilly and Glasgow at 12.01 am on the morning of Monday September 16, the day the long awaited Guns N' Roses albums *Use Your Illusion I* and *II* are released. The stores will stay open until 2 or 3 am, depending on demand for the new product. The band will certainly be hoping to do better than the last act for whom Tower arranged the stunt, Elvis Costello, whose album *Spikes*, released in February 1989, reached only No.5.

The Pogues will release a compilation of their best known songs in the autumn. Currently doing the rounds in America and Japan, they return with their rollicking brand of Gaelic-punk to Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357851) Nov 29, 30; Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590) Dec 2; Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606) Dec 3; Apollo, Manchester (061 273 3775) Dec 4; Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321) Dec 6; Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham (021 328 4864) Dec 7; De Montford Hall, Leicester (0533 544444) Dec 9; Newport Centre (0633 259676) Dec 10; Brixton Academy, London SW9 (071-326 1022) Dec 11.

Are you a useless guitarist? A musical instrument store in New York is running an international search to find The World's Worst Guitar Player. First prize is a \$400 (£237) guitar, an amplifier and an



Van Morrison: double album and concerts

instructional video. To enter send a cassette tape of your worst guitar playing to: The House of Guitars, 845 Truss Avenue, Rochester, New York 14617. Closing date September 30.

Van Morrison releases his first studio double album, *Hymns to the Silence*, next Monday September 9 and plays Apollo, Manchester (061 273 3776) Sept 27; Sheffield City Hall (0742 735295) Sept 28; St George's Hall, Bradford (0274 752000) Sept 29.

ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre and Jazz

PAGE 20



"Anybody who cares about opera as theatre should not fail to see it" Daily Express

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Richard Morrison

Faked perfection is no substitute for the risk of live performance

No more shall we hear the great Thursday-night cry throughout the land: "He sang that without moving his lips!" After a mere 27 years of thinking about it, the producers of *Top of the Pops* have plucked up the courage to decree that they will now "favour acts who are prepared to sing live". All this and Russia too. The cause of truth has had a good summer.

The BBC's promise should act as a remarkable purge on the ranks of those clamouring to appear on British television's oldest pop show. For instance, it will probably discourage the likes of Milli Vanilli, the duo who gained notoriety last year. Prepared to sing live? They did not even sing on their own records. Their manager estimated it was too risky. The boys looked good on video; he did not want to stretch their talents too far. Seven million customers bought their records before the truth came out.

But miming to recordings at live events is also preferred by some more talented artists. The issue here is not so much ethical as practical. Fans come to concerts, the theory goes, expecting not only to hear the sophisticated mix of sounds they hear on the recording, but also to see the same body-popping, lung-busting dance routines as video. To reproduce everything is impossible. Miming is the safe way out.

Otherwise, versatile backing singers are used. They hover unseen in the wings and "lift" the star's voice when the great performer runs out of puff. A gentleman called Bernard Fowler performed that discreet service for Mick Jagger on a recent Rolling Stones tour.

Of course, if rock groups did not mess around pretentiously in recording studios for months, producing albums of such complex technical subtlety that they are impossible to match in live performance, there would be less need for deception in concerts. But here we must extend the list of culprits: classical musicians have been doing something similar for decades. Can that new CD of a Mahler symphony really be called a "performance"? It will probably have been stitched together from a vast number of minuscule "takes" in a process that aims at a dull technical perfection and squeezes out all spontaneity.

Sometimes the trickery is even worse. There is a famous Verdi recording on which the celebrated soprano's top C is not heard at all: she had flown off to her next engagement before it was noticed that the top note was flat, so another singer surreptitiously "dropped in" an exquisite sound at the required altitude.

Because of this studio fakery, performers in all fields — rock stars, concert violinists, actors — working mainly in television or films — forget what it is like to take a risk. They begin to think that the chief goal of live performance is to reproduce as closely as possible the sterile perfection of the studio. Old showbiz wisdom says that stars are in trouble when they start believing their own publicity. Today, they are in trouble when they start believing their own recordings.

But there are welcome signs of a rebellion. Some big names have rediscovered a thirst for danger. Hollywood stars are attempting Shakespeare in front of real theatre audiences. For their pains, they usually get stinkingly condescending reviews. In serious rock-music circles there is growing scorn at the pretty faces who cannot play or sing a note. *Top of the Pops* may perhaps be a little less slick in future. So what? Strip away the layers of artifice and deceit; those with real talent don't need it.

Stop pretending we are naturally good

In searching for reasons for this week's riots, are we neglecting the obvious? Janet Daley argues that society has simply allowed discipline to break down

Walking home from the shops once, carrying heavy bags, I was surrounded by a gang of youths who proceeded to kick a football at me with considerable force while crying out, "Missed! Try again!" and other taunts. I made it to my front door and my husband set off after the gang. He caught hold of one of them and frogmarched him into the house whereupon we called the police to give the boys a salutary fright. That night, the father of the boy we had apprehended came to our door to threaten my husband with a charge of assault against his son.

I was reminded of that incident by the theorising over this week's riots. Is it time to resurrect the idea that some (perhaps most) youths will become lawless if they can get away with it? Or, even more outrageously, that we all have vicious impulses which will run amok if we are not taught to keep them in check?

Overarching explanations of this week's violence are peculiarly far-fetched, since the incidents seem to have almost nothing in common. Thankfully more sceptical (or less guilt-ridden) than we used to be, we are

not buying the more fashionable formulas of the 1980s. Unemployment? Poor education? Racial hatred? Up to a point, but none of these explain why other people with similar disadvantages do not respond to them by hurling bricks and stealing their neighbours' cars. So the final recourse of the social determinist is trotted out: it is meaningless itself which is the common root. Lack of self-esteem breeds nihilism which produces delinquency. Thus no reason becomes the reason.

Instead of this tortuous need to see vile acts as aberrations, we might simply accept that human beings (particularly young ones) can behave with gratuitous cruelty and even indiscriminate violence for no reason at all except that they have never been constrained to do otherwise.

A friend of mine who is a musician went into teaching after having a family. Defeated, after several years, by the anarchic hostility of the pupils, she gave up

her job at the local comprehensive. All her attempts to encourage music appreciation and organise the choir had been undermined with soul-destroying thoroughness by a small number of uncontrollable children against whom the school would not take effective disciplinary action.

Walking down the street one afternoon after she had left, she was hailed by a passing youth, "Oi, Mrs B, you f...ing whore!" The boy was scarcely known to her. Her former post was not, it should be pointed out, at an inner city sink school with a deprived catchment area. It was at a predominantly middle class school in a London borough noted for the quality of its education.



Ugly face of chaos: Cardiff this week

Confronted with pointless violence or malice, we are encouraged to ask "why?" and to assume that a failure of explanation must be to do with our own lack of perception.

The optimistic 18th-century idea that human beings are inherently good, and that they act badly only under some sort of

provocation, still dominates our thinking.

Previous generations took it as a basic premise of child management, whether by parents, schools or public authorities, that discipline applied by some external authority was the only way to curb infantile aggression and amorality. Children were taught to be good rather than bad by the application, as strenuously as necessary, of limits on their

naturally beastly behaviour. If this succeeded, they would internalise this sense of right and wrong and be capable of exercising control over themselves.

We gave up this stunningly successful doctrine with remarkable little struggle. Rousseau's idea of man's natural innocence finally swept away the last shreds of opposition in the 1960s. Having dismantled the apparatus for enforcing goodness in the immature, we have left ourselves with a narrow and much nastier range of possibilities for dealing with public disorder. Once people have become accustomed to behaving with wanton disrespect (like my friend's ex-pupil) or unbridled viciousness, they come to regard their licence as a right.

Stepping in at that point to attempt to control them is more likely to involve riot shields and tear-gas than the admonishing word or cuff round the ear which might have sufficed at an earlier stage. Punishment and crowd control are forced to become

horrifying when the offenders are outraged by the alien idea that they should be restrained in any way.

The police, left to deal with the consequences of our decision that evil does not exist, must resort to ever more hateful measures. Their desperation is then compounded by unpopularity, not to mention frustration when their efforts are not supported by the judiciary. This week saw them demanding a restoration of the Riot Act, but they would probably be pacified by a change of policy from magistrates who seem consistently reluctant to hand out custodial sentences.

In the north of England, joyriding as a juvenile recreation has become endemic. A Northumberland Police Authority report points out that 44 per cent of car-related offences are committed by people on bail. Some officers have commented that it can take 10 or 20 arrests before an offender is actually jailed.

There has been a lot of talk this week about lack of self-esteem. We used to take it for granted that there was a connection between the self-control which was encouraged by discipline and self-respect.

Peter Riddell asks if a change of government would make any difference, now Labour and Tory are so similar

Wanted: good management not new ideas

Returning to Britain after nearly three years in America, I find it hard to regard the coming general election as a key turning point. The political landscape has become almost unrecognisable since I left Westminster in 1988. Then, Mrs Thatcher was riding triumphant, though heading for a fall; Labour was deep in gloom, and the Social and Liberal Democrats were in disarray. There was still a big divide between the parties.

Now all has changed. What marketing men like to call repositioning has already taken place. John Major has dumped the more unpopular aspects of Thatcherism and embraced the public services. There is such a thing as society. Labour leaders now have relaxed conversations with businessmen about the role of profits and markets. The leaderships of both parties, though not all their followers, are operating within the same broad ideological framework.

In contrast to the volcanic eruptions in Moscow, the British scene resembles a series of characterless foothills. About the only distinctive feature is Mount Thatcher, rumbling in the distance and threatening to burst forth.

This does not mean that there are no differences between the parties, or that there is now a cosy consensus, as the Bennis left claim and the Thatcherites right fear. Rather, the parties are now

fighting on, as well as for, the same ground. It is now a contest of managers rather than ideologists. I am not offering an Anglicised version of Francis Fukuyama's "End of History" thesis. That analysis mistakenly elevates ideological clashes above other, often more significant differences, of interest, of region and of social group. The acceptance by all main parties of a broadly free-market economy — "business where appropriate, government where necessary" in Labour's words — leaves plenty of room for debate about how much the government should intervene. Labour and Tories still represent different interests, social groups and regions of Britain.

The election will still involve a choice, but within narrower limits than before. The result will obviously matter a lot to the political classes. There are prizes to be won or lost, and passionately held views to be affirmed or rejected. But the outcome will not make as much difference to the future of Britain as the parties pretend.

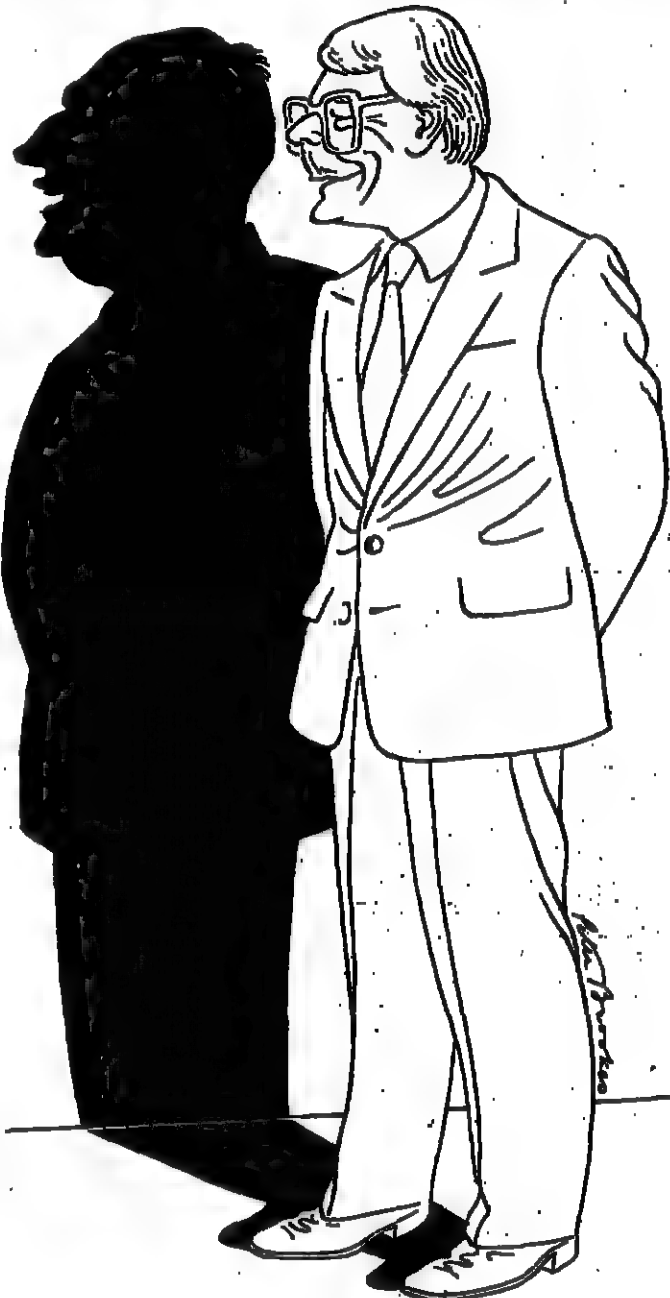
The question of when the election should be held is therefore secondary. This week's fever of speculation tells us nothing about when polling will be, but politicians and markets are now so preoccupied with the election that very little useful, or potentially controversial, will be done by the government until the campaign is out of the way. There is therefore a strong case for an

early date, not least because a newly elected, or re-elected, government would be in a stronger position than one obsessed with the election to face the Maastricht summit decisions on European monetary and political union.

Considerations of the national interest are, of course, beside the point. John Major is naturally leaving all his options open, but he would be taking a risk in November, as most ministers and party managers still agree. The positive evidence that the Tories would win is so far off the first swallow in spring variety.

The election of a Labour government would be a big change after so many years of Tory rule, but it would not be a fundamental upheaval of the kind which would have happened if Labour had won in 1983 or 1987. Now, the prospect is less of crisis than of uncertainty produced by the departure of familiar, and largely predictable, Conservative ministers and the arrival of a new, and largely untested, team under Neil Kinnock. Longstanding assumptions would be challenged. A Labour government would tilt the balance in favour of the public sector, trade unions and the provinces. But I doubt if public spending under Labour would rise any faster than it has in the past four years. The real risk is of disappointed expectations among Labour's natural supporters, especially in the public sector.

As their approaches have con-



verged, both principal parties have found that their main problem is to show that they will make a difference. The problem for Labour is that the safer and more cautious the party becomes, the less reason there is for voters to change the government. A contest of managerial teams may not favour Labour with Neil

Kinnock trailing behind John Major in personal approval ratings. Labour strategists recognise that it is not enough to have ditched the negative associations of the past, they must say something positive. The party is promising a series of speeches and lectures over the next few weeks to remedy this omission.

The Conservatives have a parallel difficulty: how to distance themselves from the disasters of the late 1980s while justifying the return of an administration already in power for nearly 12½ years. Their dilemma is highlighted by the half-hearted response to their attempts to scare voters off voting Labour by dwelling on its nuclear defence, trade union and taxation policies. The Major approach — definitely not an "ism" — offers a style of management more than a sense of direction. There is a lot to be said for a spell of good, rather than exciting government, epitomised by the Citizen's Charter. But the likely Central Office theme of continuing the rule of a capable, likeable prime minister is hardly in itself a compelling reason for renewing Mr Major's lease on Downing Street.

Political scientists regard this convergence as an overdue return to the familiar theory of electoral competition pushing parties towards the centre. The sole exception is the Liberal Democrats, who are deliberately pursuing a strategy of being different and daring: being willing to consider an increase in income tax, a special energy tax and endorsing a federal Europe. Being described as "brave" is normally a euphemism for failure, and so it would be if the Liberal Democrats were aiming for more than 40 per cent of the vote. As it is, they are primarily seeking to raise their support from 12-15 per cent at present to 20 per cent or so, and they believe that such a "bold" strategy may, by attracting notice, gain more voters than it repels.

Neither Conservatives nor Labour can afford such a risky strategy. They will offer a choice, but a choice more about competence than ideology. Neither party has so far offered a convincing answer to the unresolved problem of the 1980s of how to finance the public's continued demand for a comprehensive welfare state. We are back to the much debated question of the 1970s which party can manage Britain's relative decline better.

Peter Riddell's column will appear on this page on Mondays and Fridays.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Wednesday September 4, 1991, may, in retrospect, turn out to have been a very significant date. Indeed, if there is ever a retrospective of what Wednesday was significant for, that will be the first date in the exhibition catalogue. It will be printed beneath a photograph of *Estival Oblongs I*, on gracious loan from the Mellon Foundation, or the Getty Museum, or even, perhaps, HM the Q — always provided, of course, that whoever was spry enough to have snapped it up in the first place can bear to live without it while the Tate lines its coffers from the rapt and jostling mobs. I pray only that I am alive to see this great day for British art, because it will mean that I have become extremely rich.

Early on Wednesday, before settling down to the work I may, quite soon, no longer have to do, I went to sit in the garden with the newspaper. To do this, I had to pull a deckchair from the haphazard pile in the garage, and the pile, as such things will, collapsed: though whether the new pile was more or less haphazard than the old, who dare say?

We shall return to this and similar epistemological teasers later; for the moment, let us look at the man in the deckchair and what he himself is now looking at. It is a front page story about American customs officers who drilled a number of holes in a British work of art: a sculpture by Richard Wentworth. The officers did not know it was a work of art. They thought it was

three galvanised buckets filled with sand, because that is what it looked like. More yet, they thought it might be three buckets filled with drugs, because *est celere artem est* and beauty is in the eye of the beholder, two maxims which American customs officers have pesterworked over their cots, just beside a third which recommends them to speak softly and carry a big drill. The wreck of this work of art has not unnaturally upset its purchaser, Mr Gene Locks of Philadelphia, who paid £10,000 for something called *Three Hands* and has ended up with something called fifty holes. But that need no longer concern us, partly because it has already passed to the concern of Mr Locks's lawyers, but mainly because we have other fish to fry. We could, as a matter of fact, have fried them in the old buckled skillet containing an empty paracetamol bottle and a rusty carburettor, which stands on the garage shelf; but we cannot do that, now, since it has become *Cricklowood Cadenza: A Requiem for Thomas Love Peacock*, and if we took the bottle and carburettor out of it, it would almost certainly become worthless.

Whether it is worth more or less than *Estival Oblongs I*, I cannot guess. That is the main reason I am writing today's piece. I need help. I need someone to come down from Courtauld's or Sotheby's or wherever and take a professional squint. I realised this when I put down the newspaper, very slowly, and

went back into the garage to look at the pile of deckchairs again. It was pretty good. I wondered whether I should attempt to improve on it, poke it about a bit, but who was to say that *Estival Oblongs II* would be better? Might any refining of that first raw creative tug not destroy what pure artistic instinct had wrought? Consider what was formerly *Pile of Old Broken Flowerpots Which Might Come in Useful One Day* before it became *Baptists of the Purple Sage*: in stepping over it in order more closely to examine the exquisite miniature *Homage to Nicholas Hilliard* (a couple of dead rhinoceroses in a fishbowl tin), I stumbled against *Hoe Hoe Hoe* (one of the artist's rare excursions into comedy), and *Baptists* ended up with an old pushchair wheel in the middle of it. I still cannot decide whether or not to remove it. Where is John Ruskin now that I need him?

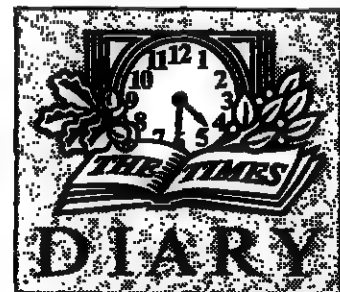
Do not misconstrue my subtext. I am not a philistine, simply a bit slow on the aesthetic uptake. While I have learned to see Anthony Caro's work as more than a load of old guttering, while I can now nod sagely over Carl Andre's bricks or David Mack's tyres, what I lack is the natural judgment to assess my own detritus. For in my garage, I have bricks, too, and bald Dunlops, and broken downpumps. Never mind several old buckets filled with sand.

All I need is an expert to say how good they are. Preferably some dingbat with a chequebook.

Thumb in the plughole

TORY party chairman Chris Patten can be forgiven mixed feelings over the talk of the first November election since 1935. As head of the Central Office machinery, he has spent months ensuring that every aspect of the organisation is ready. Yet when what ought to be the chairman's finest hour arrives, Patten will be forced onto the sidelines while he concentrates on holding his Bath constituency, where his majority is only 1,400. Normally the chairman would be expected to spend most of the three-week campaign in London, working up to 18 hours a day in Central Office. That has never proved a problem, as the job has traditionally been done by a peer or an MP in a seat so safe that the votes are weighed instead of counted (Norman Tebbit, chairman at the last election, romped home with an 18,000 majority). But although Bath is little more than two hours away, John Major has accepted that Patten will be required to put in long hours kissing babies and shaking hands in his constituency. In Patten's absence, the prime minister has asked John Wakeham, who is standing down at the election, to move into Smith Square for the duration.

Patten will stay close to affairs by commuting almost daily, arriving back in London late in the evening and departing the following morning after an early press conference. One Central Office source says: "Patten accepts the idea. There is no rivalry with Wakeham as there was between Tebbit and Lord Young in 1987." Wakeham's reward for holding the fort is likely to be a seat in the Lords, conceivably as leader of the upper house if the Tories win.



As to the question on everyone's lips, speculation has been further fuelled by the apparent lack of Tory interest in taking up the long-awaited push new offices for MPs in Westminster's New Bridge Street. The offices are ready for occupation as soon as Parliament returns. Labour has already allocated its space, but Tory MPs enquiring if they have been lucky in securing one of the desirable new rooms are being told that no decisions have been taken.

Oxford Circus, sir?

LORD JENKINS of Hillhead has always been the kind of figure more at home in a chauffeur-driven limousine than on public transport. Passengers on London Underground, however, were surprised earlier this year to see the Chancellor of Oxford University late one night riding the Central line. "We were travelling home in the same direction after a function," says a friend who was with him. "There was not a taxi in sight so I suggested we took the underground. Roy had obviously not been inside a tube station in years. He was shocked by the fifth. He had no idea about putting his ticket through the machine and was flustered by the whole thing." Jenkins's station lay considerably beyond that of his companion. "But rather than let him

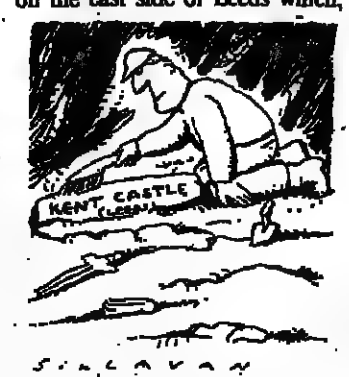
travel on his own, I suggested he got out with me and we hailed a cab for the rest of his journey."

Nevertheless, Jenkins is clearly more resilient than his companion realised, for he claims since to have become quite a connoisseur of the underground. "Only this week I travelled from Osterley to Green Park, and I can recite the names of all the stations along the way," he says with obvious pride. With the government yesterday rejecting calls for any increase in funding of the tube, perhaps the experience should be made compulsory for all politicians.

Dig the name

YORKSHIRE folk have long been miffed that the soft southerners of Kent lay claim to the name Leeds for one of Britain's finest moated buildings, Leeds Castle near the county town of Maidstone.

Now the white rose's leading city is hoping to regain the title. Work has begun excavating a site on the east side of Leeds which



archaeologists hope, will reveal a castle more geographically worthy of the famous name. On the site are the remains of a moated manor house unearthed in the mid 19th century, but the Leeds Civic Trust hopes to find traces of an earlier castle.

Dr Kevin Grady, the director of

the trust says: "The excavation may settle speculation for the past 200 years over whether Leeds ever had its own castle. From a historical point of view, there is no certainty about whether medieval references to Leeds Castle meant Kent or Yorkshire."

Backhander

JOHN MAJOR caused great surprise in his briefing to journalists about his talks with the Chinese this week when he paid generous tribute to the obscure Labour backbencher Bob "Knew China" Parry. The Liverpool member "knew China well" and had written to him about it, said the prime minister. He had even mentioned Parry's name to the Chinese premier, Li Peng. Many other MPs must have written to Major about China, too, without finding such fame.

But there could have been a motive for Major's apparent chivalry in praising a political opponent. Nothing, it turns out, could be more calculated to infuriate Neil Kinnock, who detests none of his own side more than Parry. The animosity is unsurprising and entirely mutual. "The biggest traitor since Ramsay MacDonald," is Parry's considered opinion of his leader, recorded in Eric Heffer's posthumous autobiography to be published later this month.

Boris Yeltsin may be remembered in history as the man who ended communist rule, but his past as a party agent has not been completely forgotten. The former KGB operative was one of the few people to see the action 20 years ago when, as a party boss in Sverdlovsk, he ordered the demolition of the house where Nicholas II and his family were murdered. Yeltsin said some years afterwards: "Sooner or later we will be ashamed of this barbarism." Indeed.



FOOD AID FALLACIES

The Soviet Union is not a poor country but a mismanaged rich one. It is the world's largest producer of wheat, barley, potatoes, beet and milk. It grows as much grain per head of its population in an average year as does the United States, the world's leading grain exporter. Yet last year, when a grain harvest of 235 million tons was the second highest ever and an extra 26 million tons were imported, there were food shortages. Western governments and charities responded with emergency food aid. Even India, a country with serious malnutrition, offered a million tons of wheat.

This year the American agriculture department's provisional estimates put the Soviet grain crop at 185-190 million tons, below average. Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze, have appealed for emergency aid to avoid food riots. The German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is calling for massive shipments "to fill up the shops". Jacques Delors has pledged European Community help for the Soviet Union to "stock up quickly" before winter. America and Britain have promised to consider "emergency humanitarian assistance".

For both political and humanitarian reasons, nobody wants the Soviet people to go hungry. But all these countries know that the Soviet Union as a whole will not actually be short of food this winter. They are simply playing politics, and demonstrating a damaging economic illiteracy in doing so. The Union's entire food chain is so defective that 40 per cent of what is produced or imported never reaches consumers.

To balance that, private co-operatives now supply more than a third of the food consumed in the main cities, sales which are not officially recorded. The enormous leap in productivity on private co-operatives and family farms since long leases were granted in 1990 shows how rapidly the reputedly intractable farm sector can be transformed. On 3 per cent of the Federation's farmland these farmers now produce about half its fruit and vegetables and a quarter of its meat and milk. Empty shops are a wholly unreliable guide to shortages, since much

officially distributed food goes to factories, schools and offices. This does not mean there will be no hunger. The Soviet Union's urban elderly without families, workplace rations or relatives in the country are vulnerable. But emergency food aid is irrelevant. At its most basic, how will a country which cannot distribute what it already produces be able to distribute what it receives from abroad? Last December, when food imports were pouring in, *Pravda* reported that 20,000 containers and 300 freight cars of food had been sitting for weeks in the city's railway yards.

The West may feel good, shipping "care packages", but that does not get food into consumers' baskets. Reform depends first on monetary stabilisation, without which farmers will continue to hoard or to sell only in barter trade even if prices are further liberalised. The "trade wars" between the republics, some of which have border guards posted to stop food "exports", are serious, since Stalin left almost no region self-sufficient. But to capitalise on internal reforms, the Soviet Union urgently needs Western investment and expertise to cut its post-harvest wastage, and integrate production and marketing.

That is why yesterday's initiative by the agriculture minister, John Gummer, and the private sector British Food Consortium represents a more creative use of taxpayers' money than "goodwill" dumping of Western food surpluses, dumping which will depress free market food prices and thus impede the development of vigorous private-sector food production and distribution. The industrial teams will concentrate initially on techniques such as drying, canning, bottling and pasteurisation to help reduce the damage to perishable goods from transport bottlenecks and power failures.

This is sensible, low-key stuff which could yield results within a year. It does not answer the question: will they get through this winter? The answer is yes: uncomfortably, but without threat to life. Unless food stocks turn out to be far lower than believed, direct food aid should be resolutely withheld.

DOCKLANDS EMBARRASSMENT

When the London Docklands corporation started sponsoring an early evening news programme on LBC Radio, listeners could only sympathise with the embarrassed presenters who had to repeat "London Docklands: where the future looks bright" several times an hour. The broadcasters must have been relieved when that version was replaced by the slightly less tendentious "... where more and more companies are moving in". Even the corporation seems finally to have accepted the gap between advertising and reality in a part of Britain which the property slump has hit hardest.

Government ministers are just starting to admit to mistakes too. Transport minister Roger Freeman this week accepted that transport in Docklands "isn't brilliant". Faced with commuters on a packed bus who had vowed never again to use the dreadful Docklands Light Railway, he described these trains as an embarrassment.

What lessons can be learned from the Docklands experience? First, letting developers build what they liked where they liked, free from planning controls and with huge tax reliefs from the Exchequer, led to a building boom. With prices for homes and offices falling over most of the rest of the country in the past two years, Docklands suffered more by having new developments continually coming on stream. Even offers of subsidised mortgages and 50:50 ownership enticed barely a trickle of buyers. Some Docklands office developments have offered space at £5 a square foot, half the going rate in Bradford or Bolton.

The problem of attracting residents and companies has been exacerbated by poor transport links to the area. Mr Freeman said yesterday that "building development on the Isle of Dogs outstripped the infrastructure. That was inevitable". It was not inevitable. Ever since Docklands' conception, transport

economists have warned that the proposed road and rail links would not meet the planned demand. The light railway was built to carry 15,000 passengers a day. Despite its unreliability, it transports almost that number every hour. Panicky developers duly petitioned the government for a new underground link, now being built at a cost of £1 billion, in effect to save the developers' bacon. In five years' time, when the railway has been extended and new roads completed, the damage to the area's reputation will have been done.

The Docklands saga demonstrates firmly that town planning cannot be wished away in some ideological fog. Billions of pounds of public spending were squandered on the lopsided renewal of the East End of London in the 1960s and 1970s, money spent almost entirely on public-sector housing. Billions of pounds have now been spent, an incalculable proportion of them also public funds, producing a no less lopsided commercial development round the defunct docks. The concept of phased urban renewal, with public and private sectors in partnership, has never been tried in East London. The area has been a battleground of economic ideologies and the price has been paid in poverty.

As with the development booms of mid-Victorian London, the recent building boom in Docklands will take decades to work its way into the property market. Offices will lie vacant, houses will be squatted, builders will go bankrupt. In a final gesture of despair, a group of residents are launching a potential £100 million compensation claim for the misery of living on Europe's biggest building site. This may become the largest group action in English legal history. But it should have been directed at the government. Politicians should not be able to cut and run from the chaos they create.

A DELUGE OF DIGITS

It was just over a year ago that British Telecom left London in two with its infamous 071 and 081 telephone numbers. Most Londoners put this inconvenience down to the price of progress - at least there would be enough telephone numbers to last the capital well into the 21st century. Yesterday the Office of Telecommunications showed them how wrong they were. On Easter Day 1991, all Britons will find yet another digit added to their present telephone numbers.

Initially the new digit will be a "1". The long-suffering Londoner, just getting over the trauma of having to make a long-distance call to his 081 home from his 071 office, will have to start dialling 11 digits beginning with 0181. The last extra digit only doubled the numbers available to London. By contrast the ingenious French and Japanese, also running out of numbers, had added a single digit in front of the local telephone numbers in Paris and Tokyo. Not only did this avoid long-distance dialling within the capital cities; it also increased the numbers potentially available ten-fold.

According to OfTel's own studies, the average telephone user with a push-button phone takes 0.5 seconds to dial each digit. On this basis, the difference between a local number with seven digits and one with 11 is no less than two seconds, even ignoring the chances of wrong numbers. Two seconds may not sound long, but OfTel estimates that Britons will be making 60 billion calls a year by the end of the century. Assuming that half

of these calls are local, the total time wasted would be 16.7 million hours annually, or 1,903 man-years.

Furthermore, there will be far greater likelihood of wrong numbers, which is increased ten thousand-fold by using four extra digits. Most people will carry few 11 digit numbers in their heads. The average time to make a call will rise not just by the extra dialling time and wrong numbers, but by extra looking-up time too.

The telephone experts argue, of course, that there is no alternative. All other options have been considered and rejected. The obvious one of adding a single digit to local numbers was deemed less attractive than the 11-digit solution because it would make it more difficult for businesses to keep their telephone numbers if they moved from one city to another, and for competing telephone companies to tag customers with a prefix of their own.

Furthermore, the regulators point out, the abolition of the abbreviated local-number dialling will not be required for some time after the new system is introduced in 1994. It will only be necessary after the 0171 numbers are exhausted in central London, for example. Then the real horror will begin. At that point, the OfTel consultative document notes, it will make sense to abandon local dialling entirely "to avoid user confusion". By then it will be too late to complain to Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of OfTel, even if anybody has the digital stamina to dial him on 01718221600.

Recognition, status and aid for the new Soviet Union

From Dr Dennis Deletant

Sir, In formally recognising the independence of the Baltic states Western governments have rightly pointed to the fact that the three states were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940.

We should not overlook the fact that in the same year a fourth territory suffered an identical fate, namely Bessarabia, which Stalin annexed from Romania and from which he fashioned the artificial Soviet republic of Moldavia.

Now that the Romanian majority in Moldavia (it represents today 65 per cent of the population) has been able, for the first time since 1940, to express its wishes over the status of its territory through its elected representatives in the Moldavian parliament and has declared its independence, the time has come for the EC governments to respect the right of self-determination embodied in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris and to follow the example of Romania in recognising the independence of Moldavia.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS J. DELETANT,
University of London,
School of Slavonic and East European Studies,
Senate House, Malet Street, WC1,
September 4.

From Mr S. A. J. Pereira-Shorey

Sir, With the constituent republics of the erstwhile USSR now considering applications as separate members of the United Nations, for how long will there be permanent seats for an increasingly non-existent nation on the UN Security Council? Steps must be taken to ensure that this great, albeit much abused, country may continue to take its rightful role in this august body.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON A. J. PEREIRA-SHOREY,
Perry House,
Blandford Forum, Dorset.

Benetton at bay

From Mr Paul S. Marsden

Sir, It is mildly ironic to note that whilst Arnold Schwarzenegger has been devising various new and grotesque ways to "terminate" people in his latest film, all under a "15" certificate, the British Advertising Standards Authority has asked Benetton to withdraw its allegedly offensive poster of a newly-born baby and Benetton has felt obliged to comply (report, September 5).

The offending advertisement has been censured for a supposed "conspicuous disregard for the sensitivities of the public. The latter, it appears, are quite happy to satisfy their morbid fascination for violence with the latest Hollywood epic, or indeed with the all-too-real visual accounts of the latest riot victims, but find the miracle of childbirth unduly offensive.

Sincerely yours,
PAUL S. MARSDEN,
12 Norfolk Terrace,
Brighton, East Sussex,
September 5.

From Mr Alan Bird

Sir, You report Benetton's claim to be surprised at the extent of the public reaction to its new-born baby posters. I am surprised by their claim. The campaign must have been planned by a marketing department; one of this department's key functions is, presumably, to gauge scientifically and accurately just such a response. Based upon this assessment, their sales forecasts must have provided the basis of their current business plan.

Can Benetton really deny that they flouted considerations of public taste in order to achieve precisely the current situation. If I bought their stuff in the first place I should certainly stop doing so now.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BIRD,
3 Trinity Cottages,
Richmond, Surrey.

Interest-free credit

From Mrs Avril Munson

Sir, Your article on "much maligned" credit cards (Law Times, September 3) implies that the 40 per cent of credit-card holders who enjoy interest-free credit are subsidised by the remaining credit-card holders. This is not the case. They are subsidised by customers in general whose prices are increased by 5 per cent to cover the profit of the issuing banks. As a customer who invariably pays cash and has never possessed a credit card of any description, I strongly resent being compelled, willy nilly, to subsidise other people's borrowing.

Yours faithfully,
AVRIL MUNSON,
17 River Avenue,
Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire.

Bit of a mouthful

From Mr Colin Thomas

Sir, Your report (August 31) of proceedings at the British Association stated that objections were raised to the erosion by faceless people at the BBC and UN of traditional place names such as Peking and Canton.

Dr Herbert Sandford called the new names "a veritable babel of meaningless foreign unpronounceables and unspellingables". As he is described as "from the centre for cartographic studies in Plymouth", I feel he must be right.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN THOMAS,
33 Cobham Road,
Fitcham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

From Mr T. W. E. Corbett

Sir, British officials are reported (August 30) as recognising the need for humanitarian food aid to the erstwhile Soviet Union, which is likely to suffer a shortfall of 90 million tonnes after this year's harvest. They are lucky there is some humanitarian food about.

Western carryover stocks of grain from last year amount to some 61 million tonnes and we are nearing the end of a record harvest.

Your report infers that the problem of payment, which has hitherto prevented large-scale movement of food from areas of surplus to areas of need, can be solved.

It is strange that the prospect of wholesale starvation in the Soviet Union should bring this about rather than actual wholesale starvation, in, say, Ethiopia, but should we not rethink the whole strategy of set-asides, stabilisers, quotas and so on, which are designed to ensure that no humanitarian food will be available to relieve starvation in future?

Yours sincerely,
TIM CORBETT,
The Home Farm, Leebowood,
Church Street, Shropshire,
August 30.

From Mr I. Howard Wright

Sir, In your leader, "Soviet succession" (August 29), you make the profound statement that "A supra-national authority... is not essential to the peace and prosperity of disparate people: indeed this thesis is one of the most awful fallacies of history".

While the truth of this is being demonstrated in so many parts of the world today, the "visionary" leaders of the European Community press on relentlessly trying to repeat this mistake.

Yours faithfully,
I. HOWARD WRIGHT,
23 Blackford Grange,
39 Blackford Avenue, Edinburgh 9.

Elephant culls

From Mr Dave Curry

Sir, Mr John Wilson, information officer of the Zimbabwe Trust, claims in his letter of August 27 that elephants are culled only when there are too many of them for their environment. That point has never been substantiated; repeated requests for raw population data to prove the alleged population explosion of Zimbabwean elephants have been ignored.

A leading Zimbabwean scientist's claim at an international meeting in 1989 that Zimbabwean elephants conceive at seven years - i.e., many years earlier than any other elephants on the continent - has given rise to many unanswered questions. Careful analysis of available processed data indicates that Zimbabwe "double counts" elephants that migrate across its border and extrapolates from counts around artificial water holes. These are the areas where vegetation change is most obvious.

I have not claimed, as Mr Wilson

From Mr Andrew G. Stone

Sir, The people of the Soviet Union have no direct experience of the details of how a modern market economy operates. Open learning techniques are the only way in which it will be possible to communicate such information.

The Open University and the Open Tech polytechnics already have courses dealing with all aspects of modern economics, planning and management. Many could be rapidly adapted to suit the needs of the Soviet Union.

Yours sincerely,
A. G. STONE,
13 Inellan Road,
Wemyss Bay,
Renfrewshire,
September 2.

From Professor Archie Brown

Sir, It is a slight overstatement to say (Diary, September 4) that I urged the prime minister to back Mr Gorbachev "to the hilt".

What I did say, even in my written memorandum which Mrs Thatcher read prior to the September 8, 1983, Chequers seminar at which the prime minister proposed inviting Mr Gorbachev to Britain, was that Gorbachev was "probably the most open-minded member of the Politburo" and that he "might well be the most hopeful choice" as general secretary "from the point of view both of Soviet citizens and the outside world".

Second, it was much earlier than "a full 18 months before his succession" that I "tipped Gorbachev as leader". It was from late 1980 that I regarded it as probable that Gorbachev would become general secretary. I first said so in print in 1982.

Yours sincerely,
ARCHIE BROWN,
St Antony's College,
Oxford,
September 4.

alleges, that the ivory trade ban is the only answer. Local initiatives and a change of distribution of tourism revenue from central government to local communities are important steps forward.

Indeed, since the international ivory trade ban was agreed, ivory poaching, has dramatically decreased across most of the African elephant's range, greatly increasing many countries' ability to implement wildlife management schemes that can funnel revenue into local communities.

The same Zimbabwean scientist was quoted at the 1989 meeting as having said that his heart could not bleed for all the elephants in Africa. He did not deny that he had said this. That leaves the rest of us to deal with the continental problem at an international level.

Yours faithfully,
DAVE CURRY,
(Executive Director),
Environmental Investigation
Agency Ltd.,
208-9 Upper Street, N1.

Flower power

From Mrs Evelyn Mercer

Sir, How heartening on my return from holiday, to read your leader, "Flowers of the realm" (August 9), supporting the flower arrangers of this country. Since the inception of our association in 1959, over £4 million has been raised for charity from the proceeds of exhibitions and flower festivals staged in stately homes, churches and cathedrals, locally supported by the public.

Having benefited from adult education classes many women progress to qualify through the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies as teachers, judges and lecturers in flower-arranging travelling extensively to visit the 1,400 flower clubs in the UK and many clubs in Europe, America, Africa and the Far East.

It may be a leisure activity in the eyes of the government but these flower-arranging are a "world-wide pursuit, providing artistic creativity for those who partake, enjoyment for those who observe and financial support for many charities.

Yours etc.,
EVELYN MERCER (President),
National Association of Flower
Arrangement Societies,
21 Denbigh Street, SW1,
August 31.

Challenging dialect

From Mr T. B. Martin

Sir, Dr Cashman (August 31) can say which part of the Tyneside area a speaker comes from because he detects variations in the Geordie dialect. "Tyneside" is from South Shields to, say, Prudhoe in County Durham and from Tynemouth to, say, Wylam in Northumberland.

There may be variations in popular phrases and in vowel sounds but throughout the area the local dialect is known as "Geordie".

I was born and bred at the mouth of the Tyne, spent my summer holidays in north Northumberland and became Tory MP for Blaydon in 1931, so I have a wide knowledge of the local dialect. Dr Cashman is right, the speech of the country people and the fisherfolk of north Northumberland is not "Geordie".

His description of it as a "baroque creak" is perhaps unkind as that does not convey the richness of the burr, but the Rs do seem to come from the throat, not rolled from the tongue.

Dr Cashman is perhaps too young to remember the wives of the fishermen of Cullercoats, where he lives, putting their men's share of the catch into large wicker baskets on their backs and giving a Geordie invitation to the housewives of Tynemouth to buy fresh fish on their doorsteps.

How sad his village is no longer in Northumberland because the "authorities" say it is in "Tyne and Wear".

Yours faithfully,
T. B. MARTIN,
Mosses House, Tilshed,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
September 2.

Owen, Steel and the old Alliance

From Mr George Britton

Sir, When considering Sir David Steel's views on David Owen's political career (September 2) it is pertinent to recall Sir David's own outstanding achievement. Within only about ten days after the 1987 general election, he unilaterally called for a merger between the Liberals and the SDP.

He persisted with this campaign despite David Owen's objections and soon succeeded in smashing the Alliance, killing off the SDP and hence in destroying the centre as a credible alternative to Labour and the Conservatives for the ordinary voter.

Yours faithfully,
G. BRITTON,
6 Larch Close,
Lichfield, Staffordshire,
September 2.

From Mr Michael Lethbridge

Sir, Sir David Steel is setting all but impossible standards for pots to reach when calling kettles black.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LETHBRIDGE,
White House,
Stringers Common,
Guildford, Surrey,
September 2.

Dealing with riots

From Mr Michael Abbott

Sir, Our society now is large and interdependent and riots strike at the fabric of our fragile democracy. The police are being drained of their manpower for normal constabulary duties by having to provide reserves for public disorder and when a riot situation develops I question whether some of the senior officers in charge are able to take prompt and effective action.

Criminals (and this is what these rioters are) are only deterred by the strong probability of being arrested and a deterrent sentence being imposed by the courts.

Surely the time has come to have a mobile force such as the French CRS to deal with these situations. If the government would also introduce the Riot Act again we might make some progress.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ABBOTT,
Melrose, 56 Tophill Street,
Minster, Ramsgate, Kent,
September 4.

From Mr Allan Robinson

Sir, Part-time police - the Special Constabulary - are never called out specifically to deal with unrest as your leading article (September 3) states, and the armed B Specials in Northern Ireland have long been disbanded.

Specials are never used on industrial or major public-order events. They are not trained in riot-gear use, nor are they insured for injury so are kept well away from organised confrontation.

In emergencies the Special is used to man enquiry desks, to maintain the street patrols from which professional fully-trained policemen have been removed to join the riot squads.

Yours etc.,
ALLAN ROBINSON
(Force Commandant,
Surrey Special Constabulary),
21 Stringfords Copse,
Ripley, Surrey,
September 3.

TV market place

From Mr H. Chambers

Sir, I think that Michael Grade (August 30) does protest too much. Although I agree that it was unfair of your leader to assert that all American television is down-market, very much of that which I have seen is. The fact that it is credited with large viewing figures is no indication of its quality.

Am I wrong in my assumption that Channel Four's original aim was to cater for minority tastes with frequent "quality", "serious", well conceived productions, rather than join the race for viewing figures as required by its advertising sponsors?

Not according to Michael Grade: "... much of our news, arts and documentaries has attracted new and bigger audiences." However, I find it difficult to understand how viewers for such programmes can be gathered from those who habitually view soaps and situation comedies, most of which, however good their original concept, have, like their British counterparts, descended into boring repetition.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
H. CHAMBERS,
Dallousie, Wallingford Road,
North Merton,
Didcot, Oxfordshire,
August 30.

And no mistake

From Mrs Barbara Plumby

Sir, Matthew Parris (September 2) comments amusingly on whether, for instance, "Open Monday to Thursday" includes the Thursday. There is no likelihood of misunderstanding the sign in one of our local shops, which states proudly: "Open 7 days a week including Sunday".

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA PLUMBY,
16 Captains Row,
Lymington, Hampshire,
September 3.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071 782 5046).

NEW RELEASES

BATHROOM INTIMACIES: Javier Hernandez's provocative, amusing look at a Mexican husband from a privileged position behind the bathroom mirror. As part of the London Latin American Film Festival (running until September 19). Metro (071-437 0757).

CLOSE MY EYES (18): Sexual games between brother and sister on a hot London summer, vividly portrayed by writer-director Stephen Polakoff and an excellent cast (Sasha Roiz, Cleve Owen, Ann Fienberg).

JUNGLE FEVER (18): Surly, over-the-top Spike Lee film about interracial relationships, with striking moments among the humor. Starring Wesley Snipes, Annabella Sciorra. Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636). Empire (071-487 9999). Screen on the Green (071-236 3520).

OSCAR (PG): Sylvester Stallone attempts to become a Hollywood star, trying to get a role in the centre. With Vincent Spano, Peter Reagent. Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636). Empire (071-487 9999). Screen on the Green (071-236 3520).

THE NAKED GUN 2½ - THE SMELL OF FEAR (15): Leslie Nielsen returns as accident-prone Lt Frank Drebbin, this time as a comedy. Directed by David Zucker. Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636). Empire (071-487 9999). Screen on the Green (071-236 3520).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Goofy Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

CURRENT

DIVA (15): Jean-Jacques Beineix's 1992 hit about opera, featuring recordings and the Paris underworld, revised in a new version. Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636). Empire (071-487 9999). Screen on the Green (071-236 3520).

DYING YOUNG (15): Faded, manipulative weepie with Julie Walters in a love story about a young man dying of leukemia. Director, Joel Schumacher. Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636). Empire (071-487 9999). Screen on the Green (071-236 3520).

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS (PG): Tim Burton's captivating fantasy about a boy with scissors for hands at large in America. With Johnny Depp, Anne West, Winona Ryder. Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636). Empire (071-487 9999). Screen on the Green (071-236 3520).

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THEATRE

Adam Was a Gardener
Minerva, Chichester

LOUISE Page subdues her new play "an evocative love affair between the past and the present", and means it pretty literally. There are moments when it looks as if one main character, a sexually frustrated 18th century landscape gardener, will fall passionately into the arms of the other, a flummoxed single parent of our own era. Talk about prickly chronological and theory dramatic problems. But the only congress that occurs is verbal. He talks earnestly about his responsibility to the future, and she as earnestly about her duty to the past.

Much discussion on the same subject, most of it equally earnest, is to be heard on Paul Farnsworth's dual-period set. In the first half, there are minuscule box hedges on the edges of a rectangular lawn. In the second, they are replaced by tiny rose trees and rather larger statues of Adam and Eve. This is the formal garden that Simon Dorman's solemn Richard Stephens spends 1791 trying to make more natural, and Sharon Maughan's bright Annie Darnley attempts in 1991 to recreate according to the moodbook left at his death. "I am making it for you," he tells her. "I am keeping faith with you," she says. And so on, and so on.

Page is an intelligent dramatist, with an enquiring, subtle mind; but she has chosen a theme hard to adapt to the theatre. Recognising this, she does her best to interest us in the family circumstances of her characters.

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A plot that fails to flourish

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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceefax** 5.30 **Breakfast News**
9.05 **Hospital Watch**. An up-date on yesterday's visits to Hammersmith hospital. 9.35 **Perfect Strangers**. American comedy series.
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather 10.05 **Playdays** 10.30 **Stoppit and Tidyup** (r) 10.35 **Raggy Ann and Andy**
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **The Reluctant Cook**. Today's subject is the saintly cook series is Spencer star, Jimmy Nail (r). (Ceefax) 11.25 **Hospital Watch**. A look at how the patients and staff at Hammersmith hospital have coped with the cameras during the past week.
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather 12.05 **The Garden Party** hosted by Paul Cole. Sally Jones and Larry Sullivan. Today's guests include singer Gloria Estefan, who talks about her 15-year career and sings her latest single, and comedian Michael Bentine.
12.55 **Regional news and weather**
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceefax)
1.50 **Film: A Tale of Two Cities** (1935, b/w) starring Dirk Bogarde, Dorothy Tutin and Cecil Parker. Solidly acted but unimaginative adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale of heroism during the French Revolution. Bogarde plays Sydney Carton, the English lawyer who falls for the wife of a French nobleman and after a series of selfless acts pays the ultimate sacrifice. Look out, too, for Christopher Lee and Donald Pleasence. Directed by Ralph Thomas.
3.45 **The Ghost Ship**. A cartoon narrated by Vincent Price. 4.10 **Smugglers**. Cartoon adventures. 4.35 **Tricky Business**. Episode six of the eight-part children's comedy drama (r).
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Byker Grove**. Episode 14 of the 20-part drama set in a youth club in the north-east of England (r). (Ceefax)
5.25 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceefax) 5.50 **News**, regional news and weather 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Morna Stuart. Weather 6.30 **Regional News Magazines**. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 **Hospital Watch**. This penultimate transmission from Hammersmith hospital discovers how the patients feel they have been treated.
7.30 **Top of the Pops** presented by Jaki Brambles (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)
8.00 **The Russ Abbot Show**. The first of a new 12-week series of comedy sketches. As well as his usual characters, Abbot introduces the Riscoe family whose lives are fraught with double meanings. With regular guests Les Dennis, Bala Emborg and Sherrie Hewson.
8.30 **On the Up**. A new series of the disappointing Bob Larbey comedy starring Dennis Waterman as a self-made millionaire, more at home with his three faithful retainers than with his snooty wife. With Judy Buxton, Sam Kelly, Joan Sims and Jenna Russell. (Ceefax)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather



Back on the wander Cathy Shipton, Derek Thompson (8.30pm)

- 9.30 **Casualty**
● CHOICE: Returning for its sixth series, *Casualty* has most of the old team back on duty and a script by a regular writer, Ginnie Hole, which offers the familiar format of half a dozen interwoven stories. The notable absentee is Brenda Fricker's motherly Megan, while newcomers include a blonde student nurse and a receptionist with a startlingly short temper. Tonight's star turn is the helicopter rescue of injured climbers trapped on a cliff ledge, shot with the authority usually reserved for such operations. Those who have followed *Casualty* from the start will have noticed the gradual disappearance of the political element which used to vex some Conservative MPs. No longer does the show suggest that the National Health Service is overstretched and underfunded. Everyone just gets on with the job, which is no doubt how Mr William Wedgewood would prefer it to be.
10.20 **Hospital Watch**. The last visit of the week to the Hammersmith hospital and, Sarah Greig, Meggie Phillips, Mike Smith and Robbie Vincent examine the prospects of these patients with illnesses that are difficult to diagnose or treat.
10.50 **Film: Agency** (1981) starring Robert Mitchum, Lee Remick and Valeria Marini. Stodgy Canadian television movie about a sinister plan to control voters' minds by using subliminal messages in television commercials. Directed by George Kaczmarek. 12.00am

BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University: Frontiers of Geology**. Ends at 7.10
8.00 **News**
8.15 **Arthur Negus Enjoys**. Arthur Negus is joined by snooker star Ray Reardon who visits Llanwrtyd Wells in a comic, a large country house with a notable Victorian billiard room (r).
8.30 **Great Mysteries**. Henry Lincoln examines the claims of a group of people from Bath who claim to have lived previous lives as heretics in 13th-century France (r).
9.00 **Film: Lasse - the Well of Love** (1970) starring Bruce Bennett and Sean Kelly. The all-too-human colic sense a young boy's grief when his pet dog dies and lets him have one of her own puppies. Directed by Jack Hyles.
10.15 **Film: Carry On Doctor** (1968) starring Sidney James, Kenneth Williams, Barbara Windsor and the rest of the regular *Carry On* team together with Frankie Howerd. The usual mix of farce and double meanings, this time set in a general hospital. Directed by Gerald Thomas. (Ceefax)
11.45 **Under Sail**. Sydney Harbour's 18-foot racing boats (r).
12.05am **The Famous Teddy Z**. American comedy series.
12.30 **The Dandy-Bessie Story**. Look behind-the-scenes of the two famous comics (r). 1.20 **Fingermouse** (r).
1.35 **Discovering Birds**. Tony Sopar's guide to bird-watching (r).
2.00 **News** and weather followed by **Weekend Outlook** (r).
2.05 **Stop the Wedding**. Four weddings that never made it to the altar (r).
2.50 **Point to Point**. The story of an enthusiastic but non-competent rider and his horse chasing golf at a local meeting (r).
3.00 **News** and weather followed by **Goit Walker Cup**. Live coverage from the second day of the historic amateur competition in which a team representing Great Britain and Ireland play one representing the United States.
8.00 **Film: Beneath the 12-Mile Reef** (1959) starring Robert Wagner, Terry Moore and Gilbert Roland. Predictable underwater action adventure, one of the first to be filmed in Cinemascope, about two sponge-diving families battling over territorial claims. Directed by Robert D. Webb.
7.40 **Animation Now**. *Lady Fishbourne's Guide to Better Table Manners*, made by the National Film Board of Canada.
7.45 **What the Papers Say** with Peter McKay of London's *Evening Standard*.
8.00 **East**. Magazine series on Asian matters. Tonight the Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif talks about the reintroduction of the Shariat (Islamic) law in his country.
8.30 **News** and weather followed by **Shan Bushick** visits Roger and Valene Brown's hillside garden in Shropshire which has been inspired by miniature gardens in Bangkok and standing stones in Brittany.



Divided loyalties: Molly Ringwald and Jon Cryer (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Film: Pretty in Pink** (1986)
● CHOICE: John Hughes's tale of a poor American high school kid trying to cross the social divide may not be the most original film subject but it comes up fresh thanks to sharp writing and the natural, partly improvised, charm of the mainly young cast. The star, Molly Ringwald, had previously worked with Hughes on *The Breakfast Club*, another study of teenage angst. Here she plays a girl from the wrong side of the Chicago tracks who falls in love with a rich boy (Andrew McCarthy) and arouses the jealousy of her loyal friend from childhood (Jon Cryer). If the plot is perfunctory, Hughes's observation of the American class system is often acute and his dialogue has an authentic adolescent ring. Of the supporting cast, James Spader makes an early mark as a rich snob. Often his own director, Hughes was here content to write and produce and gave the directing job to a newcomer, Howard Deutch.
10.30 **Newsnight** presented by Peter Snow 11.15 **Weather**
11.30 **The Last Days of Lenin**: 60 Seconds. In the last in the series of films about Russia's second city presenter Alexander Nevzorov tells a murder scene, interviews the killer, and finds another dead body.
11.30 **Film: Leningrad Cowboys Go America** (1990). Offbeat comedy about a remarkably untalented Russian pop band on tour in the United States who despair of ever making the big time. With a guest appearance by cult film director Jim Jarmusch. Directed by Aki Kaurismäki. Ends at 12.00am

ITV

- 5.00 **TV-am**
5.25 **Runway**. Travel quiz. 5.55 **Thames news** and weather 10.00 **The Time ... the Place**. Topical discussion series chaired by Miles Scott.
10.40 **This Morning**. Magazine series on family matters. Today's items include, at 11.00, Susan Brooks with a vegetarian recipe; and, at 11.45 advice on coping with odd jobs around the house. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55.
12.10 **Rainbow**. For the very young (r).
12.30 **News** with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 **Thames News** and weather
1.30 **Home and Away**. (Oracle) 1.50 **A Country Practice** 2.20 **Countdown**. Solving social and emotional problems (r).
2.50 **Give Us a Clue**. Celebrity quizzes hosted by Michael Parkinson.
3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors**. Australian medical drama.
3.55 **The Raggy Dolls**. A new series of adventures for the seven reject rag dolls who magically come to life.



Animated panda-munchers: Victor, left, and Hugo (4.05pm)

- 4.05 **Victor and Hugo**.
● CHOICE: The latest cartoon series from Cosgrove Hall, the company behind *Cangermouse* and *Count Duckula*, features a couple of incompetent, French crooks who drive around in a ramshackle van and have a pet parrot who doubles as an answering machine. The show should really give a credit to Peter Sellers, since Hugo is voiced by David Jason in a close imitation of *The Goon Show's* Bluebottle and Jimmy Hibbert as Victor sounds like Inspector Clouseau. The opening episode takes the pair to London Zoo to kidnap a penguin. The animation is unexceptional but the plot moves briskly and the humour is often inventive.
4.30 **Knightmare**. The start of the fifth series of the adventure game in which young people pit their wits against puzzles posed by a computer-created dungeon. 5.00 **Cartoon** featuring Bugs Bunny (r) 5.10 **Home and Away** (r). (Oracle)
5.40 **News** with Carol Barnes.
5.55 **6 O'Clock News** presented by Frank Bough. The guests are American singer/songwriter Neil Sedaka and Jeremy Beadle who, at Brent Cross shopping centre, will attempt, for a reason that escapes me, to burst a million plastic packaging bubbles in a minute.
7.00 **The \$64,000 Question**. Bob Monkhouse introduces three more contestants hoping to come up with the right answers.
7.30 **Coronation Street**. Oracle.
7.50 **You Bet!** The first of a new series of the sporting challenge presented by Matthew Kelly.
8.00 **The Trials of Roale O'Neil**. Watchable American courtroom drama starring Sharon Gless as a forthrightly divorced lawyer who has given up a well paid Beverly Hills job to become a public defender. Tonight she is on the side of a homeless man accused of kidnapping a heavy metal singer. (Ceefax)
10.00 **News** at Ten with Alastair Stewart and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 10.35 **LWT News** and weather
10.40 **The Birth of Rugby**. To what the appetite for the forthcoming rugby union world cup, Cliff Morgan narrates a re-enactment of the famous event at Rugby school in 1823 when William Webb Ellis changed a game of football into the sport of rugby by picking up the ball and running with it.
11.10 **Beano and the Beano**. Ridiculous farce. (Ceefax)
12.05am **Climb to Kilimanjaro**. The Dukes of York presents this story of how seven young mentally disabled children managed to conquer Africa's highest mountain.
12.35 **Elvis: Good Rockin' Tonight**. Dramatised account of the life and times of the legendary rock 'n' roller, starring Michael St. Gerard.
1.08 **Rescue 911**. William Shatner with more examples of Joe Public's heroism.
2.05 **American Gladiators**. Trials of strength and ingenuity.
3.05 **Cinematrans**. The latest news from Hollywood.
3.35 **Raw Power**. Rock music videos.
4.35 **Garfield's Gorfies**. Studies series of second world war adventures of an irregular group of fighting men. Tonight's episode includes a guest appearance by Jack Klugman, star of *Quincy*. 5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Brenda Rowe. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Channel 4 Daily**
9.25 **Film: Riders of Destiny** (1933, b/w). Low-budget western starring John Wayne as an undercover agent coming to the assistance of farmers whose water is being illegally lured off by villains. Directed by Robert N. Bradbury 10.20 **Famous For 4 Minutes**
10.30 **Broken Silence**. The Spanish natural history series continues with a look at how parasites and carrion eaters help to maintain the natural balance in the environment (r).
11.00 **Testament: Power and Glory**. In this sixth of his seven-part series John Romer visits some of the more majestic churches of early Christianity.
12.00 **Elements**. The last in the series on contemporary artists who work with unusual materials.
12.30 **Business Daily**
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school learning series.
2.00 **Art of the Western World**. In the second of a 19-part series, Michael Wood examines the legacy of Rome (r).
2.30 **Channel 4 Racing** from Kempton Park. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the Stewards' Handicap Stakes (2.35); the Mares' Charity Look Stakes (3.10); the Mares' Temple Fortune Stakes (3.40); and the Mares' Nursery Stakes (4.10).
4.30 **Countdown**. Words and numbers game.
5.00 **The Enclosed Sea**. The third of a ten-part series on the Mediterranean and its peoples explores the cultural riches of Sicily (r). (Teletext)
5.30 **I Love Lucy** (b/w). Classic comedy from Lucille Ball.
6.00 **Roseanne**. American blue-collar comedy starring Roseanne Barr.
6.30 **sixtiesomething**. Arts and entertainment magazine presented by Maria McElrath and Ann Bryson. The guests include Amanda De Cadenet, Chris Owen and Dave Stewart.
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zehava Badawi. Weather.
7.50 **First Reason**. Rabbi Lionel Blue reviews Steven Berkoff's new play *Kvetch*.
8.00 **Brookside**. Suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext)



A dainty portion in healthy eating: Anton Mosimann (8.30pm)

- 8.30 **Anton Mosimann - Naturally**
● CHOICE: Television cookery programmes tend to divide into those which are mainly an excuse for a star turn and those where the food comes first. In the former category are Keith Floyd, Hudson and Halls and the new ITV series featuring Michael Elphick and Don Henderson. Anton Mosimann belongs firmly to the second type. He is so self-effacing that he does not even conduct his own show but has to be discreetly prodded by an interviewer. The gain to the viewer is that attention can be concentrated on the matter in hand, in this case afternoon tea. Mosimann's line is natural food, served in dainty portions. Popping over to Budapest, he makes an apple strudel with pastry so thin you can read a newspaper through it. Back in London he serves up tiny sandwiches and a light cream cake. Mosimann's line is natural food, served in dainty portions. Popping over to Budapest, he makes an apple strudel with pastry so thin you can read a newspaper through it. Back in London he serves up tiny sandwiches and a light cream cake. Mosimann's line is natural food, served in dainty portions. Popping over to Budapest, he makes an apple strudel with pastry so thin you can read a newspaper through it. Back in London he serves up tiny sandwiches and a light cream cake.
9.00 **Cheers**. Continuing a re-run of the first series of the award-winning comedy set in a Boston bar.
9.30 **Garden Club**. Roy Lancaster, Matthew Biggs and Rebecca Pow visit Glasgow and look at a collection of hostess and prune plum trees.
10.00 **Dream On: Angst for the Memories**. American comedy series starring Brian Benben and Craig Richard Nelson. (Teletext)
10.35 **Packard of Three**. Comedy, music and poetry presented by Jenny Eccles, Frank Skinner and Henry Normal. Tonight's guests are comedian Dennis McPhail, performance poet Dave Gorman and musical comedian Johnny Inman.
11.20 **The Best of the John Hagen Show**. Antipodean comedy (r).
11.50 **The Happening**. The first of six music, comedy and variety acts from Britain and the United States presented by Jools Holland. Tonight he is joined by comedians Vic Reeves and Jack Dee, singer Mica Paris, and the 18-piece Deftford Dance Orchestra.
12.00am **One Night Stand** featuring American comedienne Judy Tenuta.
1.30 **Sid Caesar's Show of Shows** (b/w). Highlights from Sid Caesar's classic comedy series. Ends at 1.45

TV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 5.20pm-5.30 *Beginner's Guide to Cooking* 5.30-5.40 *Hand* 5.40-5.50 *Home and Away* 5.55-6.00 *Hand* 6.00-6.10 *Hand* 6.10-6.20 *Hand* 6.20-6.30 *Hand* 6.30-6.40 *Hand* 6.40-6.50 *Hand* 6.50-7.00 *Hand* 7.00-7.10 *Hand* 7.10-7.20 *Hand* 7.20-7.30 *Hand* 7.30-7.40 *Hand* 7.40-7.50 *Hand* 7.50-8.00 *Hand* 8.00-8.10 *Hand* 8.10-8.20 *Hand* 8.20-8.30 *Hand* 8.30-8.40 *Hand* 8.40-8.50 *Hand* 8.50-9.00 *Hand* 9.00-9.10 *Hand* 9.10-9.20 *Hand* 9.20-9.30 *Hand* 9.30-9.40 *Hand* 9.40-9.50 *Hand* 9.50-10.00 *Hand* 10.00-10.10 *Hand* 10.10-10.20 *Hand* 10.20-10.30 *Hand* 10.30-10.40 *Hand* 10.40-10.50 *Hand* 10.50-11.00 *Hand* 11.00-11.10 *Hand* 11.10-11.20 *Hand* 11.20-11.30 *Hand* 11.30-11.40 *Hand* 11.40-11.50 *Hand* 11.50-12.00 *Hand* 12.00-12.10 *Hand* 12.10-12.20 *Hand* 12.20-12.30 *Hand* 12.30-12.40 *Hand* 12.40-12.50 *Hand* 12.50-1.00 *Hand* 1.00-1.10 *Hand* 1.10-1.20 *Hand* 1.20-1.30 *Hand* 1.30-1.40 *Hand* 1.40-1.50 *Hand* 1.50-2.00 *Hand* 2.00-2.10 *Hand* 2.10-2.20 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Ghost train to test safety of BR carriages

By PETER DAVENPORT

A GHOST train, empty of passengers but fitted with electronic equipment, is to run over British Rail track throughout the country for the next two weeks in an attempt to explain fatal falls from carriage doors that have claimed 212 lives over the past 13 years.

A first-class coach has been fitted with monitoring devices by scientists of the Health and Safety Executive who are carrying out an investigation into the spate of the unexplained accidents. The carriage is at BR workshops in Derby now, but next week it will join a train of empty coaches, weighted to simulate conditions on a busy passenger express and travel between London and Carlisle at up to 110mph.

The equipment on board will monitor the effects of outside forces on the doors,

how they react on curves, the movement of doors and their frames and whether they are affected by passing trains. The test is the latest stage of a complex investigation that began in May and which, it is hoped, will provide the answer to the problem.

Yesterday, officials of the executive explained the key elements of their research so far. Dr Chris Nicholson, head of engineering at the executive's laboratories in Sheffield where the work is being carried out, said: "We have identified certain failure modes, both human and mechanical, which could occur in theory and what we are trying to find out is whether they are occurring in practice."

The executive was asked by the Health and Safety Commission in May to "investigate the pattern of falls from trains and whether they could be attributable to the design of doors or locks". One explanation under investigation is that passengers may not be applying enough force to shut the door correctly. Scientists are also studying whether a safety-catch mechanism, intended to come into force if the door is not fully closed, is working properly.

As well as monitoring the effects on carriage doors in motion, scientists are conducting extensive tests on the locks in use on coaches with "slam doors" that are hinged rather than the sliding doors fitted to the newer rolling stock. All the deaths under investigation occurred on hinged-door carriages.

Scientists are also looking at the human factor. For two weeks a 64-seat carriage has been parked at Sheffield station and members of the public have been asked to demonstrate how they enter and leave a train.

Free rail trips, page 2

One more digit to dial

Continued from page 1

growth in cellular, fax, free-phone and other emerging services.

The additional digit system opened up the way for using the numbers 1 to 9 to support that growth by boosting the available numbers to a theoretical ten billion. With geographical, fixed, telephone codes receiving the extra 1, free-phone numbers could be signified using the 2 so that they could become 02800 rather than 0800. Under such a scheme, chatline services could use the 3 and cellular phones the 4.

British Telecom added that it was simply not true that in America long-distance telephone numbers were shorter than in Britain. An official said that American numbers were 10 digits long with callers having to put a 1 in front of numbers to dial nationally.

Sir Bryan said yesterday that he was also pressing ahead with the creation of portable numbers in which one person can use the same number across a range of networks. However, he indicated that that scheme might be available only as a special, dearer, service.

Leading article, page 17



Down to earth: Jane Buckle clutches her parachute after jumping yesterday at the 1991 Shepway Festival in Folkestone, Kent, which ends on

September 15. She is head of the all-women Headcorn Parachute Club team, which carried out a display, and the UK's only advanced instructor.

Gallup poll puts Tories ahead

Continued from page 1

Conservatives is the rise in support for Paddy Ashdown's party.

Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said: "Throughout the time that the polls have changed John Major has been answering no questions at all on the state of the British economy. Once we get back to business as usual and he has to start answering those questions we will see that the British people are just as concerned about the state of the economy, health service and education as they were at the beginning of August."

Continuing economic recovery and the continuation of poll ratings such as last night's will help to determine when Mr Major takes the plunge. Chris Patten, his party chairman, was at pains yesterday to damp down the excitement that has suddenly gripped politicians with the rise in Mr Major's international stature and last Sunday's poll putting the Tory support level at its highest since April.

Mr Major, questioned in Hong Kong, hoped that not too many people would take the daily speculation too seriously. "When I judge it is right we will have a general election."

Mr Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, wrote to the prime minister urging him to kill off speculation about the election date. "If you do not intend to call a November election, you should say so as soon as possible of your return from your foreign visits."

Gordon Brown, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, told a Westminster news conference: "For the sake of the country we want an election now, so we can begin to repair the damage done over the last 12 years."

Peter Riddell, page 16

Jockey Club members turf out a duke

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Jockey Club, the ruling establishment of racing and a distance removed from John Major's vision of a classless society, was acutely embarrassed last night after the disclosure that the Duke of Roxburgh had been "blackballed" from being a member.

The tenth duke had been proposed as a candidate by Colonel Sir Piers Brough, the Queen's representative at Ascot, and seconded by Christopher Spence, a merchant banker. However, more than nine members of the club objected in writing within days of the nomination being circulated in July.

The opposition forced Lord Hartington, the senior steward, to send out a confidential memo stating: "I regret to have to tell you that because of sufficient letters opposing his candidacy, the Duke of Roxburgh's name will not appear on the list of candidates for election at the October meeting."

The snub to such a senior member of the aristocracy is unknown in the 200-year history of the Jockey Club. The duke, aged 36 and worth an estimated £70 million, was one of four names put forward to a meeting in July of the Jockey Club's membership committee.

George Paul, the 1990-91 High Sheriff of Suffolk, who is taking over as chairman of Jockey Club estates, was proposed by Captain John Macdonald-Buchanan and seconded by Lord Hartington, who is on the membership committee.

Mary Gordon-Watson, a gold medalist in the Olympic three-day event team in 1972 and now an event instructor, was proposed by Captain Tim Bulwer-Long and seconded by Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles.

Stanley Clarke, who has rejuvenated Uttoxeter racecourse in recent years, was proposed by Sir William Dugdale, another member of the membership committee, and seconded by Bobby McAlpine.

The four nominations were approved by the committee and stewards before being circulated to the membership of a club sometimes described as a self-perpetuating oligarchy. In an accompanying note, Lord Hartington added: "Unless I hear to the contrary from nine or more ord-

inary members within the next 14 days, these names will be included on the agenda for the October meeting."

The opponents of the duke, whose recent divorce from Janie, sister of the Duke of Westminster, might be responsible for the objections, then struck.

To the outside world, the Duke of Roxburgh would appear to be perfectly qualified for membership of the Jockey Club. He won the Sword of Honour at Sandhurst in 1974 before serving in the Blues and Royals. His family trust owns Kelso racecourse and he has nine mares at stud on his magnificent estate, Floors Castle, where Prince Andrew proposed to Sarah Ferguson.



The Duke of Roxburgh: snubbed by nine members

Ironically, the rejection of the duke comes as the Jockey Club is facing growing pressure to end its 200-year-old exclusive control of racing.

A Commons home affairs select committee report earlier this year criticised the lack of commercial and democratic accountability within the racing industry. The MPs called for the creation of a "powerful and competent single body to speak for and manage the racing industry... truly responsible to representative groups of all who work in the racing industry."

The proposals, if implemented, would end the Jockey Club's control of the sport. Lord Hartington is currently considering whether the Jockey Club's membership should be widened considerably so that it is more representative. The blackballing of the Duke of Roxburgh would appear to indicate that Lord Hartington faces an uphill battle with the club's formidable band of backwoodsmen.

EC threatens to halt Yugoslav peace talks

Continued from page 1

considered. Serbia wants to prevent any international military presence on the Croatian-Serbian frontier.

Croatia feared yesterday that the army was on the verge of war. Intense Yugoslav air force activity was noticed along the Dalmatian coast - one jet fighter crashed into the sea, apparently after an engine failure - and new naval vessels were spotted off Zadar.

Serbian insurgents have said for months that they want a corridor linking the Serbian enclave in Kain to the sea, which appears to be why the shooting has intensified in the Dalmatian hinterland recently.

The Croatian "total war" scenario was also supported yesterday by the continuing blockade of the Zagreb-Belgrade highway. The strategic aim of this blockade is to prevent Croatian reinforcements

from coming to the aid of besieged towns such as Vukovar and Osijek.

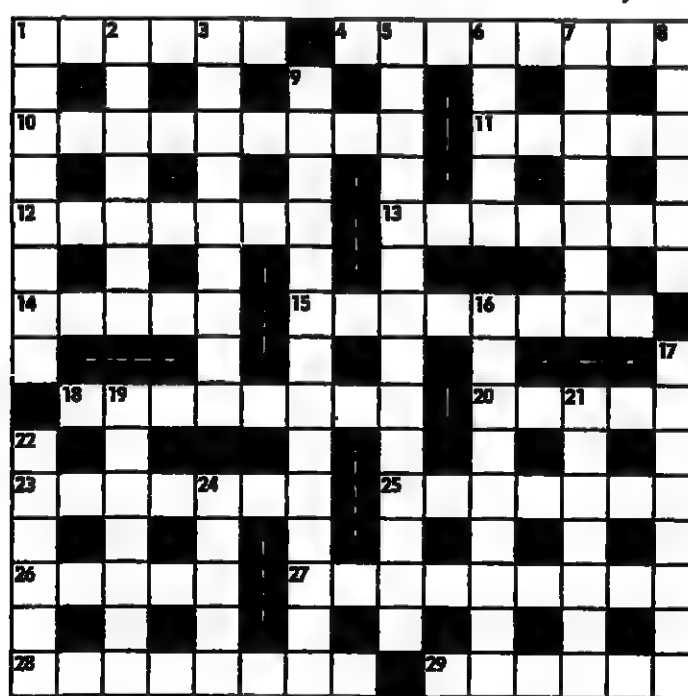
The 65 monitors were still testing yesterday whether Croatia was safe enough to begin their mission. The team is unarmed and is supposed to observe the implementation of local ceasefires. There is no sign that the ceasefire is holding anywhere around the Serbian enclaves. Zagreb, fearing an attack by the federal

army, staged its first civil defence exercises yesterday. The Civic runoff, a shelter that can hold up to 4,000 people, was also opened for four hours and residents of the capital were encouraged to visit it.

Brussels: Diplomatic sources said last night that the talks should go ahead, in spite of the continued heavy fighting in Croatia.

Serbia flee Bosnia, page 9

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,704



- ACROSS**
- Decorate man diving into stream (6).
 - In bid to destroy criminal (8).
 - Money-gathering is at the heart of things (9).
 - Kingdom needs genuine leader of men (5).
 - Animal eats fish and fowl (7).
 - System needs points - with a couple, is out of danger (7).
 - A loaf in the van (5).
 - Moving in circles, military underlings get sarcastic (8).
 - Agreement made by witches with worker (8).
 - Used by sheikh, a kind of sand-coloured cloth (5).
 - Fare badly, taken in by worthless swindle (7).
 - Carpet salesman has to travel (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,703

SUBTLE SLOWLY ARCH
OCEANIC LUTHERAN
NEGOTIATE DACHA
CIPHER PRAISE
OUR MUTUAL FRIEND
U S P O N T
RODNEY ROUSSEAU
SQUARED CLEVER
B A O M A L
SPRINGTIME
HOTEL DISCOUNT
O L A E N L
PRAISE RISHY

- DOWN**
- Dicky sort of driver (4,4).
 - Hollow? Had some food, being equipped to chew it (7).
 - Vehicle over the hill, but it fills the breach, we hear (9).
 - Rubs gently, fits fallen arch support (6,8).
 - Heron, for example, starts to relish eating trout (5).
 - Carrying round battle-axe to co-erce (7).
 - New version of film about cause (6).
 - Bother! Both taps fluctuate (4,3,3,4).
 - 16 besiegers hope to (4,5).
 - Person responsible for film is female priest (8).
 - Reorganize force if you require a policeman (7).
 - Within which man's got moving (7).
 - Last two thirds of musical are offensive (6).
 - Several days acting for the stage (5).

C concise crossword, page 19

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- VENTAIL**
a. A weathercock
b. The tail of a hurricane
c. Lower part of the helmet
- SAKER**
a. The object of a prayer
b. A heated china cup for sake
c. A species of falcon
- TROAT**
a. A drought in Ireland
b. To bellow like a buck
c. To write off a debt
- MESEL**
a. A mouse in Suffolk
b. A measure of grain
c. A leper

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

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London & SE
C London (within N & S area) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M11 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

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WEATHER

Cloud over the southern half of England, Northern Ireland and Wales will break up, leaving the day mostly sunny, but fresher. Cloud will persist in the far south-west. The rest of England and south-west Scotland will be sunny. Other Scottish areas will be sunny this morning before cloud, with rain in the far north. Outlook: the north and east cloudy with light rain; central and western areas dry with sunny periods.

ABROAD

MEDIAN: 10-15°C; 16-20°C; 21-25°C; 26-30°C; 31-35°C; 36-40°C; 41-45°C; 46-50°C; 51-55°C; 56-60°C; 61-65°C; 66-70°C; 71-75°C; 76-80°C; 81-85°C; 86-90°C; 91-95°C; 96-100°C; 101-105°C; 106-110°C; 111-115°C; 116-120°C; 121-125°C; 126-130°C; 131-135°C; 136-140°C; 141-145°C; 146-150°C; 151-155°C; 156-160°C; 161-165°C; 166-170°C; 171-175°C; 176-180°C; 181-185°C; 186-190°C; 191-195°C; 196-200°C; 201-205°C; 206-209°C; 210-213°C; 214-217°C; 218-221°C; 222-225°C; 226-229°C; 230-233°C; 234-237°C; 238-241°C; 242-245°C; 246-249°C; 250-253°C; 254-257°C; 258-261°C; 262-265°C; 266-269°C; 270-273°C; 274-277°C; 278-281°C; 282-285°C; 286-289°C; 290-293°C; 294-297°C; 298-301°C; 302-305°C; 306-309°C; 310-313°C; 314-317°C; 318-321°C; 322-325°C; 326-329°C; 330-333°C; 334-337°C; 338-341°C; 342-345°C; 346-349°C; 350-353°C; 354-357°C; 358-361°C; 362-365°C; 366-369°C; 370-373°C; 374-377°C; 378-381°C; 382-385°C; 386-389°C; 390-393°C; 394-397°C; 398-399°C; 400-401°C; 402-403°C; 404-405°C; 406-407°C; 408-409°C; 410-411°C; 412-413°C; 414-415°C; 416-417°C; 418-419°C; 420-421°C; 422-423°C; 424-425°C; 426-427°C; 428-429°C; 430-431°C; 432-433°C; 434-435°C; 436-437°C; 438-439°C; 440-441°C; 442-443°C; 444-445°C; 446-447°C; 448-449°C; 450-451°C; 452-453°C; 454-455°C; 456-457°C; 458-459°C; 460-461°C; 462-463°C; 464-465°C; 466-467°C; 468-469°C; 470-471°C; 472-473°C; 474-475°C; 476-477°C; 478-479°C; 480-481°C; 482-483°C; 484-485°C; 486-487°C; 488-489°C; 490-491°C; 492-493°C; 494-495°C; 496-497°C; 498-499°C; 500-501°C; 502-503°C; 504-505°C; 506-507°C; 508-509°C; 510-511°C; 512-513°C; 514-515°C; 516-517°C; 518-519°C; 520-521°C; 522-523°C; 524-525°C; 526-527°C; 528-529°C; 530-531°C; 532-533°C; 534-535°C; 536-537°C; 538-539°C; 540-541°C; 542-543°C; 544-545°C; 546-547°C; 548-549°C; 550-551°C; 552-553°C; 554-555°C; 556-557°C; 558-559°C; 560-561°C; 562-563°C; 564-565°C; 566-567°C; 568-569°C; 570-571°C; 572-573°C; 574-575°C; 576-577°C; 578-579°C; 580-581°C; 582-583°C; 584-585°C; 586-587°C; 588-589°C; 590-591°C; 592-593°C; 594-595°C; 596-597°C; 598-599°C; 600-601°C; 602-603°C; 604-605°C; 606-607°C; 608-609°C; 610-611°C; 612-613°C; 614-615°C; 616-617°C; 618-619°C; 620-621°C; 622-623°C; 624-625°C; 626-627°C; 628-629°C; 630-631°C; 632-633°C; 634-635°C; 636-637°C; 638-639°C; 640-641°C; 642-643°C; 644-645°C; 646-647°C; 648-649°C; 650-651°C; 652-653°C; 654-655°C; 656-657°C; 658-659°C; 660-661°C; 662-663°C; 664-665°C; 666-667°C; 668-669°C; 670-671°C; 672-673°C; 674-675°C; 676-677°C; 678-679°C; 680-681°C; 682-683°C; 684-685°C; 686-687°C; 688-689°C; 690-691°C; 692-693°C; 694-695°C; 696-697°C; 698-699°C; 700-701°C; 702-703°C; 704-705°C; 706-707°C; 708-709°C; 710-711°C; 712-713°C; 714-715°C; 716-717°C; 718-719°C; 720-721°C; 722-723°C; 724-725°C; 726-727°C; 728-729°C; 730-731°C; 732-733°C; 734-735°C; 736-737°C; 738-739°C; 740-741°C; 742-743°C; 744-745°C; 746-747°C; 748-749°C; 750-751°C; 752-753°C; 754-755°C; 756-757°C; 758-759°C; 760-761°C; 762-763°C; 764-765°C; 766-767°C; 768-769°C; 770-771°C; 772-773°C; 774-775°C; 776-777°C; 778-779°C; 780-781°C; 782-783°C; 784-785°C; 786-787°C; 788-789°C; 790-791°C; 792-793°C; 794-795°C; 796-797°C; 798-799°C; 800-801°C; 802-803°C; 804-805°C; 806-807°C; 808-809°C; 810-811°C; 812-813°C; 814-815°C; 816-817°C; 818-819°C; 820-821°C; 822-823°C; 824-825°C; 826-827°C; 828-829°C; 830-831°C; 832-833°C; 834-835°C; 836-837°C; 838-839°C; 840-841°C; 842-843°C; 844-845°C; 846-847°C; 848-849°C; 850-851°C; 852-853°C; 854-855°C; 856-857°C; 858-859°C; 860-861°C; 862-863°C; 864-865°C; 866-867°C; 868-869°C; 870-871°C; 872-873°C; 874-875°C; 876-877°C; 878-879°C; 880-881°C; 882-883°C; 884-885°C; 886-887°C; 888-889°C; 890-891°C; 892-893°C; 894-895°C; 896-897°C; 898-899°C; 900-901°C; 902-903°C; 904-905°C; 906-907°C; 908-909°C; 910-911°C; 912-913°C; 914-915°C; 916-917°C; 918-919°C; 920-921°C; 922-923°C; 924-925°C; 926-927°C; 928-929°C; 930-931°C; 932-933°C; 934-935°C; 936-937°C; 938-939°C; 940-941°C; 942-943°C; 944-945°C; 946-947°C; 948-949°C; 950-951°C; 952-953°C; 954-955°C; 956-957°C; 958-959°C; 960-961°C; 962-963°C; 964-965°C; 966-967°C; 968-969°C; 970-971°C; 972-973°C; 974-975°C; 976-977°C; 978-979°C; 980-981°C; 982-983°C; 984-985°C; 986-987°C; 988-989°C; 990-991°C; 992-993°C; 994-995°C; 996-997°C; 998-999°C; 1000-1001°C; 1002-1003°C; 1004-1005°C; 1006-1007°C; 1008-1009°C; 1010-1011°C; 1012-1013°C; 1014-1015°C; 1016-1017°C; 1018-1019°C; 1020-1021°C; 1022-1023°C; 1024-1025°C; 1026-1027°C; 1028-1029°C; 1030-1031°C; 1032-1033°C; 1034-1035°C; 1036-1037°C; 1038-1039°C; 1040-1041°C; 1042-1043°C; 1044-1045°C; 1046-1047°C; 1048-1049°C; 1050-1051°C; 1052-1053°C; 1054-1055°C; 1056-1057°C; 1058-1059°C; 1060-1061°C; 1062-1063°C; 1064-1065°C; 1066-1067°C; 1068-1069°C; 1070-1071°C; 1072-1073°C; 1074-1075°C; 1076-1077°C; 1078-1079°C; 1080-1081°C; 1082-1083°C; 1084-1085°C; 1086-1087°C; 1088-1089°C; 1090-1091°C; 1092-1093°C; 1094-1095°C; 1096-1097°C; 1098-1099°C; 1100-1101°C; 1102-1103°C; 1104-1105°C; 1106-1107°C; 1108-1109°C; 1110-1111°C; 1112-1113°C; 1114-1115°C; 1116-1117°C; 1118-1119°C; 1120-1121°C; 1122-1123°C; 1124-1125°C; 1126-1127°C; 1128-1129°C; 1130-1131°C; 1132-1133°C; 1134-1135°C; 1136-1137°C; 1138-1139°C; 1140-1141°C; 1142-1143°C; 1144-1145°C; 1146-1147°C; 1148-1149°C; 1150-1151°C; 1152-1153°C; 1154-1155°C; 1156-1157°C; 1158-1159°C; 1160-1161°C; 1162-1163°C; 1164-1165°C; 1166-1167°C; 1168-1169°C; 1170-1171°C; 1172-1173°C; 1174-1175°C; 1176-1177°C; 1178-1179°C; 1180-1181°C; 1182-1183°C; 1184-1185°C; 1186-1187°C; 1188-1189°C; 1190-1191°C; 1192-1193°C; 1194-1195°C; 1196-1197°C; 1198-1199°C; 1200-1201°C; 1202-1203°C; 1204-1205°C; 1206-1207°C; 1208-1209°C; 1210-1211°C; 1212-1213°C; 1214-1215°C; 1216-1217°C; 1218-1219°C; 1220-1221°C; 1222-1223°C; 1224-1225°C; 1226-1227°C; 1228-1229°C; 1230-1231°C; 1232-1233°C; 1234-1235°C; 1236-1237°C; 1238-1239°C; 1240-1241°C; 1242-1243°C; 1244-1245°C; 1246-1247°C; 1248-1249°C; 1250-1251°C; 1252-1253°C; 1254-1255°C; 1256-1257°C; 1258-1259°C; 1260-1261°C; 1262-1263°C; 1264-1265°C; 1266-1267°C; 1268-1269°C; 1270-1271°C; 1272-1273°C; 1274-1275°C; 1276-1277°C; 1278-1279°C; 1280-1281°C; 1282-1283°C; 1284-1285°C; 1286-1287°C; 1288-1289°C; 1290-1291°C; 1292-1293°C; 1294-1295°C; 1296-1297°C; 1298-1299°C; 1300-1301°C; 1302-1303°C; 1304-1305°C; 1306-1307°C; 1308-1309°C; 1310-1311°C; 1312-1313°C; 1314-1315°C; 1316-1317°C; 1318-1319°C; 1320-1321°C; 1322-1323°C; 1324-1325°C; 1326-1327°C; 1328-1329°C; 1330-1331°C; 1332-1333°C; 1334-1335°C; 1336-1337°C; 1338-1339°C; 1340-1341°C; 1342-1343°C; 1344-1345°C; 1346-1347°C; 1348-1349°C; 1350-1351°C; 1352-1353°C; 1354-1355°C; 1356-1357°C; 1358-1359°C; 1360-1361°C; 1362-1363°C; 1364-1365°C; 1366-1367°C; 1368-1369°C; 1370-1371°C; 137
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THE TIMES BUSINESS

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9

Business Editor
John Bell

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1991

WEEKEND MONEY TOMORROW

PROFILE



Gillian Bowditch meets the man who gave his £150,000 bonus to charity.

CHANGING BANKS

Every year thousands of customers change banks after a disagreement over charges or administrative errors. As Sara McConnell reports, however, the move is not always easy.

TRUST ALTERNATIVE

Unit trust companies are now pushing investment trusts as an alternative to their traditional products. Liz Dolan discusses the likely pros and cons.

Profits slump at Blue Circle

Blue Circle Industries reported first-half profits down from £93 million to £57.5 million. Earnings were 6.4p a share, down from 10.6p. The interim dividend is held at 3.75p a share. Jim McColligan, chief executive, said he did not expect a recovery until 1992.

Courtaulds up

Courtaulds Textiles, the clothing, fabrics and spinning group, has reported a 1 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £16.6 million from £16.4 million for the six months to end-June. The interim dividend was increased from 4p to 4.2p.

THE FOUND

US dollar 1.6935 (-0.0010)
German mark 2.9458 (+0.0025)
Exchange index 91.0 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2092.5 (-1.7)
FT-SE 100 2663.3 (-1.3)
New York Dow Jones 3004.03 (-4.48)
Tokyo Nikkei Avege 22499.85 (+96.96)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Waterside 338p (+1.80)
Hermes 597p (+1.90)
News Corp 500p (+1.50)
Continental 408p (+1.40)
Bentley 321p (+1.80)
General Accident 577p (+1.90)
British Airways 190p (+1.90)
Vain Group 238p (+1.10)
Matthew Clark 555p (+1.10)
Safeway 284p (+1.00)
Hutch 94p (+1.10)
Kvaerner 435p (+1.00)
Aurigny Group 200p (+1.90)
FALLS:
Tottenham 787p (-1.70)
Cable & Wireless 428p (-1.90)
Safeway 571p (-1.00)
Hutch 508p (-1.10)
Closing Prices...Page 29

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 10%
1 month interbank 10%
3 month interbank 9%
US Prime Rate 8%
London Treasury Bills 5.32 5 30%
30 year bonds 100 100

CURRENCIES

London New York
£/\$ 1.6935
£/DM 1.7888
£/Sfr 1.5274
£/Yen 162.80
£/Yen 135.84
£/Index 86.3
£/SDR 10.7907
£/ECU 1.48129
London foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing
A/S \$447.30 30 347.40
A/S \$447.30 347.90 (205.00)
New York
A/S \$448.25 348.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) \$20.15 bbl (\$20.20)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 1.43 in July 1987-100
Denotes midday trading price

Enquiry delays group founder's venture

Walker plans £20m claim against Brent

By ANGELA MACKEY AND MATTHEW BOND

GEORGE Walker, the ousted chairman and chief executive of Brent Walker, is issuing writs to recover up to £20 million from the leisure group he founded. Without recovering the money, Mr Walker yesterday admitted he faced personal bankruptcy.

DJ Freeman, his legal adviser, said the writs would be served either today or Mon-

day on behalf of Mr Walker, his wife Jean and son Jason. Mr Walker said the writs were being served with great reluctance, knowing that a £20 million claim could be sufficient to send the company into liquidation, "but it was time to put a marker down".

The issuance has been accelerated by last week's decision from the new Brent Walker board, chaired by Lord Kindersley, to call in the Serious Fraud Office. Mr

Walker said the SFO investigation had already led to the postponement of a new business venture. He said: "I have been offered the chairmanship of a new leisure company and I had expected it to be announced this week, but that is on hold now."

He said the company was private and would be developing Britain's biggest leisure project. The job offer will remain open until the enquiry is concluded. Mr Walker would not be drawn on the nature of the project although Brent Walker has been associated with the Wonderland project at Corby, Northamptonshire, in the past.

Of the £20 million the Walkers are claiming, about £6 million relates to Mr Walker's salary for three years and capitalised pension. Some of the claim stems from Mr and Mrs Walker's loss of opportunity to share in future profits, while the rest relates to money Mr Walker claims his family trusts are owed by the company.

The Walker family's legal move came as the company put revised proposals to the holders of Brent Walker's £102 million convertible bond issue. Without the approval of these bondholders, the long-running efforts to refinance the company's £1.4 billion of debt will fail and the company will go into liquidation.

The revised proposals envisage that the bonds will be converted into a new class of preference shares, ranked below the banks and some ordinary equity. Bondholders will hold a meeting next week to consider the proposals.

As the biggest holder of both the bonds and the ordinary shares, Mr Walker is keen to see the bondholders accept them, but he says other holders, such as Michael Smurfit, the Irish businessman, Loro and Hambros Bank, will take a tougher line.

Mr Walker is facing financial pressure on a number of fronts. Standard Chartered and TSB hold a charge over about 5 million of his ordinary shares relating to money Mr Walker borrowed to buy his £27 million of bonds.

The notes to the 1990 accounts outline several disputes involving Mr Walker, his family and the company, over the sale of assets.

In October, the Walker family trusts raised £3 million to meet a payment on the group's commercial paper programme.

Mr Walker also said he had been forced to buy four French vineyards from Brent Walker as the company raised £685 million to buy William Hill, the bookmaker, in 1989. Mr Walker said he was lent £30 million to buy the vineyards by TSB, Arab Banking Corp, Standard Chartered and Credit Suisse.

He said this had proved a "very bad deal" for him. Despite having sold two of the vineyards for £8 million, he said he would suffer a £5 million to £7 million loss if he had to sell the others now.

Sun Alliance puts premiums up 50%

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SUN Alliance, Britain's leading insurance company, is to raise premiums on mortgage indemnity policies by 50 per cent next month, in the wake of huge losses, as part of a sustained campaign to raise premium rates on loss-making personal insurance lines.

In the first six months of the year, Sun Alliance lost £50 million on mortgage indemnity policies, due to the rise in repossessions, and expects to lose a similar amount in the second half.

At the same time, the company will introduce a new differential premium rates for house insurance, charging more in areas liable to subsidence. In the first half of the year, subsidence claims rose to £61 million.

Further rises in motor policy premiums are also coming. The company says the bulk of

its customers are now paying 20 per cent more for policy renewals and this will rise to 25 per cent by the year end.

Sun Alliance said it was prepared to lose business to raise premium rates but most other insurers have been waiting for the market leader to push rates up and are likely to follow suit.

Over the half year, Sun Alliance made an overall pre-tax loss of £114 million, only £5 million less than during the storm-hit first half of 1990. The stock market took the losses calmly, however, because the group raised its interim dividend from 5p to 5.25p per share.

The group has made a further provision of more than £100 million against its £1 billion property portfolio.

Saatchi slides £4.2m into red

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE recession has hit Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising group, as badly as it blue chip clients, and Robert Louis Dreyfus, chief executive, sees no sign of companies raising promotional spending. "I think the recession has bottomed out but there is no indication of recovery," he said.

Revenues shrank 4 per cent to £353 million and after a £6.3 million charge for severance pay, the group dipped £4.2 million into the red in the six months to June. On a comparable basis profits last year were £13.5 million. There is no interim dividend.

Cost cutting should begin to show through in the second half, but Maurice Saatchi, the chairman, said 1991 operating margins would be well below those in 1990.

Despite pre-tax losses, there was a £6 million tax charge. The losses made in America and Britain could not be offset against profits made elsewhere

in the world. Loss per share emerged at 1.7p (3.7p loss). Though trading is tough, this year's refinancing has ended much uncertainty. "We have established a long term capital base. This has corrected a competitive disadvantage to our operations and provides greater security for clients and staff," said Mr Saatchi.



Dreyfus: no recovery signs

Walker's fate, page 25

Comment, page 25

NatWest bounces Globetrotters

From PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

IT WOULD have been enough to stop Meadowlark Lemon, legendary former clown prince of the Harlem Globetrotters, in mid-dribble. The parent company of the high-rolling basketball-playing ambassadors of America has been forced to file for protection under the US Chapter 11 bankruptcy laws.

Calling time out on International Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) is the National Westminster Bank, National Westminster's American arm which is owed \$59 million. The bank has been a big lender to IBC since it bought the Globetrotters in a \$30 million deal five years ago.

"The bank just told us they wanted out of the loan," said Thomas Scallen, aged 65, the IBC president. "They didn't give a reason and we are still talking. But it will still be business as usual for the Globetrotters. It's only the parent company which is in Chapter 11." NatWest

became restless with IBC when it failed to meet \$2 million January interest payment because the Gulf war kept audiences away.

"But we've paid them \$4 million since then," Mr Scallen said. "All our operating companies are doing well and we have \$8 million of cash flow a year."

A spokesman for NatWest in New York said: "All we can say is that talks are continuing."

Mr Scallen denies suggesting that a significant asset of IBC would have to be sold before the company could rebound from bankruptcy. IBC has only three big assets - the Globetrotters, an ice show extravaganza called the Ice Capades (Mr Scallen used to own the Ice Follies which later became Disney on Ice) and several amusement machine parks and skating centres.

Total liabilities for the company which he formed about 15 years ago are \$1.1 million more than its \$83.3 million assets. Secured debts total \$74.2 million

although Mr Scallen says none of it is secured on the Globetrotters.

A new international team of 22 has just been selected from 44 veterans and hand-picked rookies who attended summer training camp. This collection of some of the world's tallest men, recruited on the basis of their professional ability, style and smile, leave this weekend for an international tour of 300 two-hour games and will play in Britain in early December.

The team will star the two longest standing members, the 6ft 10in Sweet Lou Dunbar - the current clown prince of the team - and Billy Ray Hobbie, 6ft 8in and in his 14th year, and Hollywood Tyrone Brown, the dribbler.

IBC is coy about how much the Globetrotters are paid in a professional sport where top earners like Michael Jordan, Larry Bird and Magic Johnson make between \$5.5 million and \$16 million from salaries and product endorsements.



Held in France: Syed Ali Akbar, former treasurer with BCCI in London, in custody after his arrest in Calais

BCCI six indicted in Florida

By SUSAN ELLICOTT IN
WASHINGTON AND GEORGE
SIVELL IN LONDON

A FLORIDA grand jury has indicted six Bank of Credit and Commerce International executives and the alleged leader of a Colombian cocaine cartel for laundering more than \$14 million of drug profits through at least 145 accounts around the world.

The American justice department announcement followed the release of a congressional report accusing federal officials of ignoring evidence of BCCI's misconduct for years, before taking action against the bank earlier this summer.

Robert Mueller, the deputy attorney general, made the charges public after Syed Ali Akbar, former BCCI treasurer,

was arrested in Calais, in northern France. Ali Akbar, who lives in London and has British and Pakistani nationalities, was detained pending a decision on extradition by a court which must rule within 40 days.

In October 1990, he and two directors of the BCCI in Miami were sentenced to 18 months in prison in Florida for laundering drug money. Ali Akbar was released after six months. He was head of treasury services of BCCI in London until 1986.

Also on the list of indictments in Washington were Swaleh Naqvi, the acting president, Dildard Rizzi, the treasurer, three ex-officials in Panama and Garardo Moncada, an alleged leader of the Medellin drug cartel.

If convicted, the defendants face maximum jail sentences of 25 years. The American government alleges they laundered money for a "racketeering enterprise" between 1983 and 1989 through accounts in Britain, France, Luxembourg, the Bahamas, Panama, Uruguay and other countries. The bank itself was not formally charged with any wrongdoing.

The justice department said it knew three months ago of the indictments by a grand jury in Tampa investigating the BCCI scandal. But the Bush administration waited before advancing its criminal enquiry until Charles Schumer, the Democratic chairman of a house subcommittee, released a report critical of the government's handling of the affair.

The 29-page document said that federal officials "simply overlooked the repeated run-ins" with customers and executives of the Luxembourg-based bank for at least five years. The report also charged unnamed senior Internal Revenue Service staff with refusing, in 1986, to follow up a request from a Florida tax agent to investigate the bank in the light of information he received from ex-BCCI staff.

British, American and other regulators closed the international bank's operations in July after allegations of widespread fraud, money-laundering and corruption. In Washington, investigations of the bank's activities have unleashed a political storm ahead of next year's presidential elections.

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On the face of it, the pro's of a currency loan may be seen by some to outweigh the con's, by a fair old margin!

However, the complexity of trading in the many available currencies and financial instruments, coupled with the necessity for constant monitoring, has meant that controlling foreign exchange risk - in terms of the time, effort and data required - extends beyond the scope of most individuals' resources.

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Nationwide leads rate cutting moves

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE Nationwide, the second-largest building society, has cut its mortgage rate by 0.45 of a percentage point in response to Wednesday's base rate move. It was followed by the Woolwich, the Cheltenham & Gloucester and Lloyds Bank.

More than one and a half million borrowers will pay less from next month. Nationwide's new rate is 11.5 per cent for mortgages of under £60,000. Borrowers with loans of between £60,000 and £120,000 will pay 10.8 per cent, 0.35 of a percentage point less. The new rate for mortgages of more than £120,000 is 10.05 per cent, a cut of 0.25 of a percentage point. A borrower with a £30,000 endowment mortgage will pay £8.44 a month less while borrowers with a £60,000 endowment mortgage will save £15.32 a month.

Existing Woolwich borrowers will have an 0.45 of a percentage point cut from October. New borrowers will benefit immediately. The Cheltenham & Gloucester will also cut its rates to 11.5 per cent on October 1. Lloyds has cut its rates by 0.4 per cent, bringing its standard rate down to 11.55 per cent.

GE Capital, the financial services house, which operates about 30 per cent of the store-card market, denied reports that it was cutting its annual percentage rates on cards by up to 4 per cent. Some cards from retailers such as the Burton Group and House of Fraser charge more than 30 per cent.

Disposals worry analysts as recovery approaches

Cookson interim tumbles to £17m

By OUR CITY STAFF

PROFITS at Cookson, the industrial materials group, fell sharply in the first half of 1991 because of recession in Britain and America, and the unchanged first-half dividend will have to be paid partly out of reserves.

The group warned shareholders at the annual meeting in May that profits would be unsatisfactory, so the fall from £71.4 million to £17 million came as no surprise to the stock market, which raised the shares 1p to 129p.

The dividend for the six months to end-June has been held at 3p although earnings have fallen from 11.1p to 0.9p. Shareholders are to be offered shares in lieu of the cash dividend if they wish.

After a stream of disposals, including the Oster brass mill business formerly owned by

the family of Richard Oster, the managing director, and an £83 million cash exit, Cookson has reduced its balance sheet problems. Net debt is now around 35 per cent of shareholders' funds, or £180 million after the £500 million boost to shareholders' funds.

Disposals included £110 million from the graphic arts business and £160 million from the sale of the 50 per cent stake in Tioxide, the pigments maker, to ICI. The interest charge on the remaining £185 million of debts still ate up £14 million from £31 million of operating profit. In the first half of 1990 interest charges were £38.5 million.

Analysts are now concerned that in selling off so many companies Cookson has inadvertently reduced its exposure to recovery. Hopes for medium-term recovery lie in the aluminium die-casting, zircon, plastics, electronic and industrial solder, ceramic colours and glazes. In the first half ceramics made £13.5 million, against £26.5 million in the first half of last year on sales down from £250.6 million to £205.2 million.

Plastics turned in £7.8 million, down from £11.9 million on sales down from £150.4 million to £134.2 million. Metals fared worst, falling from £22.3 million to £9.7 million on sales down from £405 million to £336 million. The results were restated to allow for the sale of Tioxide and the graphics division, which made £49 million together in last year's first half.



Better on balance: Richard Oster (left) and Robert Malpas, chairman

Booker figures grow 5%

By JONATHAN PRYNN

RECESSION and poor weather in the first half combined against Booker, the food and agribusiness group, restricting pre-tax profits growth to 5 per cent, despite a six-month contribution from Fitch Lovell.

Jonathan Taylor, the chief executive, said: "Neither the economy nor, until recently, the weather, have been as we would like them but our businesses have proved resilient."

The company has already seen 900 job losses this year and a further 400 can be expected soon, he added. Operating profits in food distribution increased by 42 per cent to £18.3 million, largely due to the contribution from the Fitch Lovell businesses. Agribusiness saw a decline in its operating profits to £10.9 million (£13.2 million), while health products profits fell to £3.9 million (£4.4 million).

Mr Taylor said "particular priority" had been given to cost reduction and control of working capital and capital expenditure. Borrowings have been reduced after the sale of the retail businesses for £51.2 million. There is a £15.1 million extraordinary profit on the disposals. However, interest costs rose from £7.5 million to £12 million because of the additional borrowings taken on to finance the Fitch bid. Disposals helped bring half year end gearing down to 95 per cent from 112 per cent.

Booker also announced its first acquisition in continental Europe, a 3.4 billion escudo (£13.6 million) investment in a 40 per cent share of the Portuguese wholesale distribution businesses of Jeronimo Martins Holdings.

Clarke Foods agrees to buy Lyons Maid

CLARKE Foods, Britain's third-largest ice cream producer, has reached agreement in principle to buy Lyons Maid, part of J Lyons & Company, Allied-Lyons' food division. Lyons Maid has about 15 per cent of the British ice cream market, giving it the No 2 position in Britain, behind Wall's. Market estimates suggest that the combined Lyons Maid/Clarke Foods ice-cream group will have just over 20 per cent of the market, making it a bigger No 2.

A spokesman for Allied-Lyons would not comment on the consideration, but said it was not material in relation to Allied's net assets. However, market sources suggest that a price of between £10 million and £12 million would not seem unrealistic. The decision to sell Lyons Maid was announced in May after a strategic review, to concentrate the food division on four core sectors.

Hoskyns sells subsidiary

HOSKYNs Group, the computer services company in which Cap Gemini Sogeti of France has a 70 per cent stake, is selling its Dublin-based Fidalco subsidiary to Thornton Group for £3 million. Fidalco, a holding company for CBT Systems, the training group, made pre-tax profits of £223,000 (£212,000) in the year to end-October 1990, on turnover of £3.19 million.

Ex-Lands reduces loss

EX-LANDS, the investment and leisure group, has trimmed pre-tax losses to £8,000 (£589,000 loss) in the year to end-June. The figures included an exceptional debit of £63,000 relating to abortive acquisition costs. Turnover grew to £1.28 million (£1.14 million). Earnings per share stood at 0.06p, against a loss per share of 2.58p last time. Once again, there is no dividend.

Airline's \$55m loan

AMERICA West Airlines signed a \$55 million loan deal to help it out of bankruptcy protection, for which it filed two months ago. The airline, ranked America's ninth, will get \$35 million from GPA, the Irish-based airline leasing company, and \$20 million from NWA, parent of Northwest Airlines.

The Arizona-based airline forecasts losses of at least \$100 million this year and had only \$18 million in cash when it filed for protection from creditors. A spokesman said: "This deal is the next step to our emerging from the protection of the bankruptcy courts." Employees own 35 per cent of America West.

Trust moves ahead 25%

NET asset value per capital share at City & Commercial Investment Trust, the split-level investment trust administered by Invesco MIM Management, advanced by 25.4 per cent to £16.63 (£13.26) at end-July. Total net assets rose by 22.5 per cent to £62.4 million. Pre-tax revenue increased to £1.35 million (£1.26 million) in the six months to end-July.

Calderburn makes £2.3m

CALDERBURN, the office furniture maker formed from the merger of Alan Cooper and Mayfield, made reported pre-tax profits of £2.3 million for the first half of 1991. Their combined profits were £3.52 million in the first half of last year. Earnings were 5.83p a share, (8.73p). The merged company is paying an interim dividend of 2.8p a share.

Revolt at Aberfoyle

DISSIDENT shareholders in Aberfoyle Holdings, the investment company, have called for an extraordinary general meeting in an effort to oust the board. They include Barclays Nominees (Jersey), Throgmorton Trust and Bank of Scotland London Nominees.

They want all directors to go except Paul Wilks, the finance director, and have nominated a new board that would be chaired by Sir Peter Gadsden. They are concerned about failure to develop a palm oil project. The shares stayed at 10½p.

As resilient as BTR



1991 Half Year Results

	First half 1991	First half 1990*
Sales	£3,228m	£3,324m
Profit before tax	£512m	£506m
Earnings per share	17.4p	16.7p
Dividend per share	7.5p	7.0p

*1990 figures have been restated at 1991 half year average exchange rates.

BTR

FOR YOUR COPY OF BTR'S 1991 INTERIM ACCOUNTS WRITE TO BTR plc, SILVERTOWN HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 2PL. TELEPHONE: 071-834 3848

Housing starts 'a welcome sign'

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE sharp upturn in house-building shown in the latest government figures provided fresh evidence of increased activity, but the industry is unlikely to be able to sustain it, given the weak state of the housing market.

Official indicators, which seek to identify turning points in the economy ahead of the event, meanwhile, suggested that the economy is likely to "bump along the bottom" until the end of this year, instead of recovering by then, as the Treasury and many independent forecasters expect.

According to provisional estimates from the environment department, 16,000 new dwellings were started in Britain in July, up 2,400 from June, and 2,900 more than in July 1990.

Comparing the latest three months with the previous quarter, a more reliable guide to the trend, total starts were up 12 per cent at 44,700, exceeding the 42,100 reported for the same period last year.

A Treasury spokesman described the jump in housing starts as welcome sign, but said it was too soon to be sure if this was the start of a recovery.

The Central Statistical Office's shorter leading indicator, which pinpoints turning points in the economy about six months in advance, stood at 90.3 in July, unchanged from June. This was officially interpreted as a possible "levelling out", reflecting little change in new orders and expected stock levels, plus improved car sales.

The coincident indicator, which should trace the business cycle, continued to decline in July, falling 0.2 to 87.9.

The longer leading indicator, which identifies changes in activity about a year ahead, was up 0.4 in July at 98.7, and is estimated to have troughed in April or May last year.

COMPANY BRIEFS

RICHARDS GROUP (Int)

Pre-tax: £505,000
EPS: 4.48p (5.89p)
Div: 1.65p (1.65p)

PORVAIR (Int)

Pre-tax: £870,000
EPS: 4.2p (4.9p)
Div: 1.1p (1p)

SPECIAL EYES (Fin)

Pre-tax: £201,000
EPS: 2.04p (LPS: 17.18p)
Div: None

KINGSFAN GROUP (Int)

Pre-tax: £1.5m (£1.7m)
EPS: 4.88p (5.72p)
Div: 1p (1p)

READYMIX (Int)

Pre-tax: £1.76m (£2.38m)
EPS: 3.95p (5.23p)
Div: 0.55p (0.55p)

BURFORD HOLDINGS (Int)

Pre-tax: £1.63m (£1.35m)
EPS: 0.94p (0.75p)
Div: 0.45p (0.4p)

DANIEL (Int)

Pre-tax: £8,000 Loss
EPS: -
Div: Nil (1.25p)

REECE (Int)

Pre-tax: £540,000
EPS: 0.33p (LPS: 0.26p)
Div: 0.1p (nil)

BRITISH DREDGING (Int)

Pre-tax: £758,000
EPS: 2.88p (5.28p)
Div: 2.5p (2.5p)

XTRA-VISION (Int)

Pre-tax: £708,000
EPS: 0.47p (LPS: 3.13p)
Div: None

LAST TIME'S PROFIT WAS

£705,000. Turnover fell to £8.75m (£10.7m). Group said second half will remain difficult, but enquiry rates are up.

LAST TIME'S PROFIT WAS

£801,000. Company said the results reflect sales of higher margin products and improved production efficiencies.

LAST TIME'S LOSS WAS

£2.71m. There was an exceptional debit of £77,000. Turnover grew to £14.8m (£14.2m). Sales per outlet per week rose 9.5%.

ALL FIGURES ARE IN IRISH CURRENCY.

Turnover rose to £30.5m (£23.8m). Company expects UK margins to remain under pressure.

ALL FIGURES ARE IN IRISH CURRENCY.

Reduced construction activity and poor weather are blamed for decline in profits, earnings and margins.

THE COMPANY HAS COMPLETED

the acquisition of Whitley Road Retail and Leisure Park, Longbenton, Newcastle Upon Tyne, for £3.4m.

LAST TIME'S PROFIT WAS

£12,000. Board will delay a decision on the level of dividend until the outcome for whole year is known.

LAST TIME'S LOSS WAS

£138,000. Turnover rose to £6.93m (£2.04m). Company said it is well placed to take advantage of any upturn.

LAST TIME'S PROFIT WAS

£1.69m. Company said there is little sign of improvement in trading before 1992, but balance sheet remains strong.

ALL FIGURES ARE IN IRISH CURRENCY.

Last time's loss amounted to £2.4m. Turnover stood at £10.9m (£15.8m). Company expects further progress.

US growth predicted

AMERICA is in the early stages of economic recovery and will achieve growth of 3 to 4 per cent in the second half of this year, followed by 2.5 to 3 per cent growth in 1992, John LaWare, the Federal Reserve Board governor, predicted.

Addressing a bankers' conference, he said core inflation in the US was continuing its slow downward trend, a remark that is likely to encourage speculation in the market that the Fed will soon ease the monetary reins.

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BTR gives its profits a boost

COMMENT

Having just sold the Pretty Polly hosiery business, the group's biggest disposal in years, BTR has suddenly decided that corporate activities are now a profit centre and that the £84 million net profit is part of its normal pre-tax profits. The effect seemed magical. Profits were expected to fall again in the first half from £530 million to about £440 million.

Instead, they appeared to have dipped only to £512 million, which was actually an increase if the £24 million impact of exchange rate movements was excluded. BTR shares rose for a moment in pleasant surprise but soon fell back rather more as dealers and analysts swiftly spotted the catch. On a comparable basis, profits were actually lower than expected. Analysts reasoned, moreover, that trading could not be going well if BTR needed to dress up its profits.

Alan Jackson and his new top team made a good initial impression. Their revised strategy of selling companies as well as buying them and concentrating on building global

businesses in fewer product areas offered a new lease of life after disappointments for Sir Owen Green's soaring conglomerate and were backed up by the sale of Pretty Polly and an agreed bid for a British packaging operation in Rockware.

Now Mr Jackson and Kathleen O'Donovan, who moved from auditor Ernst & Young to become finance director, have made their first big mistake, undermining most of the good work. The last thing BTR needs is to be linked to creative accounting.

On present accounting standards, there is nothing wrong with presenting disposal gains as ordinary profit, even if as at BTR, goodwill premiums on acquisitions are written off against reserves and not put through the profit and loss account. But it is not the best practice in companies that hope to earn a high stock market rating for their earnings, since short-

term dealing in companies is not a reliable or predictable source of income.

BTR has, it turns out, done this before, though under the anonymous guise of "other operating income" and on a much smaller scale. Moreover, Pretty Polly was bought eight years ago and, to make appearances worse among analysts, the sale was booked in June although not finally announced until last month.

BTR would do well to change its mind. A 15.6 per cent fall in profits and 18 per cent drop in earnings, which it might have reported, does not stand up well against its record, but is respectable for a company in tough manufacturing sectors with scope for recovery.

In any case, Mr Jackson may soon have no choice. In eight months' time, the Accounting

Standards Board is likely to issue new rules that would oblige companies to report profits other than from on-going businesses above the line, as BTR has done, but as a separate exceptional item. David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB has now taken a further step to clean up this mess by referring the question of writing off goodwill to the board's urgent issues committee.

Saatchi gains

At last the board of Saatchi and Saatchi has achieved one of its most fervent wishes. During the dramas of last year, when the group was rarely out of the headlines as it grappled with a mountain of debt, chief executive Robert Louis-Dreyfus remarked frequently that he

hoped Saatchi would soon become a boring business.

It is now certainly that. Clients are strapped for cash and however hard the operating agencies pull in the new business, the spend per client continues to shrink. But there is now a calmer atmosphere abroad at Saatchi's new and rather downbeat head office in a distinctly glitz-free block north of Soho.

Fears of a receivership, which dominated stock market perceptions of Saatchi last year and was no help at all in the winning of new business, is now absent. The recapitalisation may have been painful for shareholders, but it means that potential clients and existing ones too can consider Saatchi proposals strictly on their merits.

That is extremely good news for all concerned and the benefits are showing through already. Independent research by Goldman Sachs indicates what the advertising industry knew all

along. However much Saatchi the plc may have botched its corporate planning and its finances, there are some excellent advertising men working at the coal face.

Goldman says that Saatchi has been winning new business handsomely. Its performance in the June quarter was "most impressive" when measured against the four largest quoted competitors internationally.

From a net loss of business in the first three months of the year, Saatchi outstripped the competition by a two to one margin in the three months to June putting on new billings of £284 million. Adjusting for size, Goldman found that Saatchi also led the pack over a 12-month period, gaining net new revenues of 7 per cent.

That may not yet translate into higher profits. Saatchi is still some way off paying a dividend. The new business successes suggest though that one day in the not too distant future Saatchi shares will be well worth buying as a highly geared play on economic recovery in the economies of Britain and America.

Blue Circle is geared to benefit from the upturn



Cool head: Sir Peter Walters, Blue Circle chairman

LIFE during the recession has not been easy for a building products company that diversified into consumer products at considerable expense at the top of the economic cycle. But Blue Circle has kept its cool and looks well placed to benefit in the upswing.

Interim profits fell heavily from £93 million to £37.5 million in the first half, reducing earnings from 10.6p a share to 6.4p, but appear no worse than expected from a company exposed to depressed markets in Britain and America.

The interim dividend is held at 3.75p a share and, despite fading prospects of a second-half recovery, the full-year payout looks secure, although the cover will be slim. Assuming the recovery does get underway in the first half of 1992, dividend prospects for the next 12 months are considerably brighter.

Despite the decline in profits from a peak of £232 million in 1989, Blue Circle, chaired by Sir Peter Walters, has managed to maintain a relatively strong balance sheet and conserve market share in its main sectors.

Although net debt rose from £262 million at the end of 1990 to £316 million at the end of June, gearing has settled at 32 per cent, compared with 34 per cent a year ago.

The company's debt burden is not inconsiderable but the interest charge remains modest at £10.2 million, although it has risen from £1.4 million last time, benefiting from cash deposits held in Britain and American borrowings at competitive rates.

The interest charge is covered almost seven times by operating profits of £67.7 million, which declined from £94.4 million. Turnover fell from £656.4 million to £530.8 million.

Cost-cutting continued relentlessly, with another 900 jobs being shed as part of a redundancy programme that began more than three years ago. Rationalisation and restructuring of the home products division, which has yet to justify total investment of £536 million, should create a leaner business ahead of the recovery.

Full-year profits of £155 million and earnings of 17.6p a share would support an unchanged dividend of 11.3p for the 12 months. But at 271p, the shares, trading on a multiple of 15, appear to have fully discounted next year's expected recovery.

Courtaulds

WHAT a difference a decade makes. Ten years ago, during the depths of the last recession, the textile industry was almost a byword for the out-

of-date attitudes and practices of much of British manufacturing. This time around, as Wednesday's half-time figures from Coats Vytella showed and yesterday's interim results from Courtaulds Textiles confirmed, the lessons have been learnt.

In both companies there were massive cost reductions very early in the recessionary cycle. At Courtaulds, costs have been reduced by as much as £50 million a year since the start of 1988. And despite his understated management style, Martin Taylor, the chief executive, has not flinched from tough decisions on redundancies. During the year to June about 4,000 jobs have been lost, with more to come in the second half.

The spinning division, which continued to lose

money in the first half, has seen the number of mills come down from 28 three years ago to seven now. Barring a spectacular turnaround it is difficult to see a long-term future for what is the last of the bulk commodity operations in the group.

Tight cash management has continued to pay off, with the £2.5 million interest bill reduction more than compensating for the drop in operating profits. Interim pre-tax profits rose slightly from £16.4 million to £16.6 million. Further gearing reductions, possibly to below 25 per cent, can be expected in the second half.

Nevertheless, the recession continues, particularly in the UK. But with a drop of 4.5 percentage points in interest rates in the past year, and a

higher dollar warding off imports, the upturn cannot be too far away. In America it has almost certainly begun.

Forecast full-year profits of £41 million would give earnings of 31p, putting the shares on a prospective multiple of 13 for the current year. As with Coats it is 1992 that the market is looking to now. And on forecast profits of £50 million for that year with plenty of scope for upgrading, the shares look distinctly good value.

Sun Alliance

SUN Alliance may be regarded as the premier British composite insurer but its results are as awful as any, and not just because the group has sufficient assets to take more of the risks it writes on its own books. The little-changed pre-tax loss of £114 million (£119 million), in a first half free of last year's storms, covers poor underwriting results all round except in life business and in America, where operations are managed by the Chubb pool and made a tiny profit.

On British personal lines, underwriting losses came down slightly from £176 million to £152 million but that included a £50 million loss on mortgage indemnity policies and a frightening £61 million for subsidence. These are unlikely to go away quickly, though the group is leading the market in big rises in indemnity premiums from October and in differential household rates to take account of subsidence risk.

That modest progress was, however, largely offset by recession-related increases in commercial policy losses and in losses from continental Europe and Canada. Investment income, starved of cash to meet these losses, fell £7 million to £165 million. When currency effects are taken out, that signifies underlying growth of only 1 per cent.

The attraction of Sun Alliance lies in its assets, which have not been frittered away in the sort of ill-timed ventures favoured by others. The solvency margin, though marginally down at 80 per cent, is way ahead of the field. Net assets estimated at £2.1 billion are probably not too far behind the share price if the embedded value of life business and the rise in stock markets over the past two months are allowed for.

This asset strength backs a 5 per cent rise in interim dividend to 5.25p. If repeated for the full year, that would leave the shares at 377p, yielding 5.2 per cent. Sun Alliance is a core holding in a shaky sector with great operational gearing to the cycle, but strong evidence of recovery is needed within a year to sustain credibility.

Walker's fate must rest on the fortunes of his company

George Walker, founder of the debt-crippled company that bears his name, is suing for £20m



Battling on: George Walker is taking his fight from the boardroom to the law courts

GEORGE Walker says he has dedicated 35 years of his life to Brent Walker. On Wednesday, that career merited just one and half lines in the leisure company's latest report and accounts.

The move by the new board, headed by Lord Kindersley, to put as much distance as possible between the company and its former master has finally forced Mr Walker to implement his long-delayed plan to sue the company for up to £20 million.

As he reluctantly admits, the company he created now threatens to destroy him. Without the money he claims he is owed by the group, he faces personal bankruptcy.

"I don't know how long I have got. It all depends on the attitude the banks take to me," he said at his Pall Mall home yesterday. The luxury apartment is all one would expect of a man whose personal wealth until very recently ran to tens of millions of pounds. Now, like virtually everything else Mr Walker owns, it is held as security by his bankers.

Mr Walker could be forgiven for being bitter. But he is not. Instead his mood alternates between regret, bewilderment and anger as he describes the events that mean he now has to watch the extraordinary going-ons at Brent Walker as an outsider.

He remains on the board as a non-executive director but it is apparent he is excluded from all important decisions.

"All the decisions are taken by the finance committee, which meets on a once a week basis." His first sight of the 1990 report and accounts, which reveal how more than £850 million has been wiped off Brent Walker's balance sheet in just 12 months, was on Wednesday when he was given a copy by Lord Kindersley. "I did disagree with a few things in it," he said, smiling. Even though he was sacked as chief executive four months

ago, Brent Walker remains Mr Walker's lifeblood. He still uses "us" when "them" would be more appropriate. Above all else he wants Brent Walker to survive. With 25 per cent of the ordinary shares, he needs it to.

His immediate and unenviable task is to persuade the other holders of the £102 million convertible bond to accept new proposals, which are the condition to a successful refinancing of Brent Walker's £1.4 billion of debt.

He says he remains on good personal terms with Michael Smurfit, the Irish businessman who personally and corporately speaks for 25 per cent of the bond issue, and with Tiny Rowland, his long-time ally, whose Lorrho group owns just under 5 per cent. "Tiny rang me from his yacht last week to offer his personal support." Significantly, Mr Rowland's call came after Lord Kindersley had called the Serious Fraud Office into Brent Walker to investigate, among other matters, the alleged overstatement of the interim 1990 profits.

Mr Smurfit, who Dublin financial circles say is apoplectic about the speed with which he has lost £25 million, also remains friendly, although Mr Walker felt it was prudent to decline an invitation to attend the lavish birthday party Mr Smurfit threw for his wife in Monte Carlo last weekend. Mr Walker admits that while relations with his fellow bondholders are good on a personal

level, they are distinctly strained when it comes to the refinancing proposals.

"That is where we disagree," said Mr Walker. Mr Smurfit, Lorrho and Hambros Bank are happy to flirt with Brent Walker's liquidation, in their effort to force a better deal out of Brent Walker's banks. Mr Walker on the other hand is more prepared to compromise, believing the refinancing offers the best chance of restoring real value to Brent Walker's shares.

"If the banks give enough, I will be doing everything in my power to make the other

bondholders accept it," he said. With the SFO enquiry frustrating Mr Walker's attempts to build a new business life for himself, his future remains as tightly linked to Brent Walker as his past.

In the last five years his family interests have put up or guaranteed more than £300 million, he said. When George and Brent Walker were one, he never stopped to count the odd million. Now with founder and company locked in an acrimonious divorce, Mr Walker wants his money back.

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Ferguson bows out

STAFF at County NatWest were stunned yesterday by the resignation, for "personal reasons", of Tim Ferguson, chief executive of the securities arm for the past two years. Ferguson has been under intense pressure after an ultimatum by Lord Alexander of Wealdon, chairman of National Westminster Bank, in March, that County had two years in which to become profitable. Howard Macdonald, chief executive of the investment banking arm — and one of the most highly paid bankers in the City — stepped down in April, leaving Ferguson to take cost-cutting pressures on the chin. Arthur Kirsch, head of County's American equity division, steps into his shoes.

Big Dave's day

THE City reaches another milestone today with the 50th birthday celebrations of "Big" Dave Langmead, larger-than-

life broker at Beeson Gregory. Weighing in on the wrong side of 17 stone and at 6ft 4in, Dave is a familiar sight at watering holes in and around the Square Mile. Yesterday, he was busily fending off claims that his age now matches his girth, although he does admit that he stopped shopping for suits at Marks and Spencer a long time ago because he could never get the trousers to fit. A keen cricketer, "Big" Dave now hopes to qualify for the Essex Over-50s team.

Himalaya bound
READERS of the City Diary have sailed round the world, cycled up the Andes and fought off polar bears in the Arctic. Now two young City stars are off to play polo in the Himalayas. Hugh Davis, of

Fenchurch, Insurance, and Justin Bird, a professional events rider turned Docklands property consultant, plan to



travel overland to the 12,500 ft Shandur Pass, Pakistan, where locals have developed a taste for high-altitude polo. The pair are busy drumming up support for the trip.

Pressed to service

KEITH Whitten, chairman of Thomas Jourdan, maker of the Corby trouser press, is suffering more than a bruised ego over the company's recent losses. As he sat down to write his chairman's report at his New Forest home, his son Oliver, aged 11, dashed in to say his pony, Star, had fallen into the swimming pool. Whitten plunged in and grappled with the pony until the fire brigade arrived. "It took two-and-a-half hours and I was a bit bruised afterwards," says Whitten, who now feels

ready for whatever his shareholders can throw at him.

AN ENVELOPE stuck to the inside of the front door of the BCCI office in Park Lane, London, has the following message scrawled upon it: "Bell does not work. Try knocking with a coin." Tough luck on creditors.

Blank spaces

AS ELECTION fever infects the City, a new virus has caused flushed faces among the Treasury number-crunchers. In their monthly compilation of independent economic forecasts for both June and August, they understated the number expected to be out of work at the end of next year by no less than a quarter of a million. Could this be an

attempt to give a timely summer boost to consumer confidence? Political jiggery-pokery? No, just a Whitehall mistake. "It was due to a minor error involving putting in a blank space instead of a hyphen," says a helpful Treasury spokesman.

Deep-seamed team

NEWS that three ex-Kitcat & Aitken employees had been recruited by Durlacher West, as its mining team, has led to a flurry of calls to Carr, Kitcat & Aitken, WI Carr's institutional equity offshoot. Carr's team, comprising no fewer than ten people, remains happily intact under the steady hand of David Stirling, the one-time senior partner of Galloway & Pearson, a broking firm bought by WI Carr in 1986. "We've always had a big mining team because historically Galloway & Pearson did a lot of business with South Africa — and still do," says Fred Carr, chief executive of WI Carr Investments.

JON ASHWORTH

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

World are easing, with the inflow of resources picking up

But it gave a warning that those Latin American and African countries starting to emerge from the "lost decade" of the Eighties could have trouble attracting funds, as competition intensifies under growing demands from eastern Europe and Asia.

Provident

By JONATHAN PRYNN

The Bradford company gave a warning, however, that trading conditions are unlikely to improve significantly this year and would remain tough throughout the second half.

Sir Timothy Kison, the chairman, said that Provident

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June rose from £113 million to £128 million on sales up 17.9 per cent at £994 million. Trading profits rose 30 per cent to £147 million but an increase in the interest charge, from £320,000 to £19.8 million due to the acquisition of the American household and toiletry business Boyle-Midway for £713 million last year, reduced profits before tax.

profit held

Colonade Insurance Brokers made rapid progress in opening new outlets, which now number 38, and its performance was close to expectations, he said.

Sir Timothy said he hoped soon to be able to announce a successor to the late Peter Hogg as chief executive.

Sir Michael Colman, the group's chairman, said recessionary conditions persisted in many of the group's major markets outside continental Europe, and in Brazil stringent government price controls severely reduced trading margins.

The food division saw a slight downturn in profits to £20.8 million because of the sale of the group's Conimex business. Excluding the disposal, trading profit rose 4.5 per cent in that division. Robinsons and Colman's in the UK did particularly well and a new mild mustard creamy spread was successfully launched in America.

The reduction in profits of 56.2 per cent to £3.92 million in the group's other activities reflected the sale of the fine art and graphics business in July 1990. The performance of the industrial pigments business was materially depressed by the economic difficulties experienced in Brazil.



By Our City Staff

The group gave a warning, however, that despite the successive cuts in interest rates, the market remained difficult.

The number of houses sold in the first half increased from 570 to 650, a rise of 14 per cent, but the average selling price was unchanged at £79,000.

David Wilson, chairman and chief executive, said: "Customer confidence, which appeared to be improving in the first quarter, decreased noticeably in the second quarter, despite the downward trend of interest rates, and market conditions remain very difficult."

Mr Wilson said this meant that for the first time in his memory full-year results were hard to predict. "This is the peak buying time and there is a lot of pent-up demand out there, but we simply do not know if September and October will return to normal. At present we're bumping along the bottom."

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

Its key phrases were enough to have any corporate lawyer salivating: share trading patterns ... large sales by insiders ... artificial impact on share prices ... class action seeking punitive damages.

Emess to

By PHILIP PANGALOS

IGG, a distributor of plotter and computer devices, and a coater and distributor of films for visual presentations and reprographics, made a pre-tax profit of £1.2 million last year. Turnover was about

Michael Meyer, Emess's chairman, said Kolon had the resources to realise IGG's potential.

Emess will use the proceeds of the sale to reduce borrowings and to develop its lighting and electrical businesses. Its shares rose 5p to 29p.

False were the shareholder action committee, the name of the lawyers, and their address. Even worse, in the period during which the bogus rebels rousers claim Surgical shares went down, they actually increased 52 per cent, as did interim profits by 74 per cent, the dividend was lifted 20 per cent and the Connecticut company took on 3,000 more slaves.

A spokesman for US Surgical said: "We have no idea why anyone should have done this and we are working with the legal department of *The New York Times*. Once we have assembled all the evidence, we will put the matter before the New York Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission."

"It requires some effort to stage a successful hoax in our newspaper advertisements, it is not something which would have been achieved casually." But the newspaper declines to say whether it has been paid for the advertisement, estimated to have cost \$3,000.

NOTTINGHAM

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Gulf war and recession dent turnover

Burmah Castrol dips 9% to £72.2m

By MARTIN BARROW

DEPRESSED sales volumes caused by recession and the Gulf war, compounded by adverse exchange rates, were blamed for a reduction in interim profits at Burmah Castrol, the specialist lubricants and chemicals group.

In the first six months of 1991 pre-tax profits slipped 9 per cent from £79.2 million to £72.2 million. A higher tax charge arising from Fosco, acquired late last year for £259 million, left earnings down by almost 28 per cent at 17.8p a share, against 24.7p. The interim dividend is maintained at 8.5p a share.

Lawrence Urquhart, the chairman, said: "These first-half results are a reflection of the worst trading environment since the early Seventies as well as the adverse but temporary effects

arising from the current Fosco financing structure."

Comparisons between the two periods are distorted by the acquisition of Fosco and disposal of a stake in Premier Consolidated Oilfields, together with the company's two remaining oil tankers.

Trading profits of £96.5 million, a £5 million increase, include £18 million from acquisitions and £1 million from the reclassification of Castrol Thailand as a subsidiary, offset by £6 million from divested businesses and a £5 million loss on exchange rate movements. Businesses in the group in both half years registered a £3 million decline in trading profits.

The company reaffirmed that the positive impact of the Fosco acquisition would not show through in the current

year. In the first half the effect of Fosco was to dilute pre-tax profits by £3.7 million as funding costs exceeded its profit contribution. The group tax rate rose by 7 percentage points to 47 per cent.

Trading profits from the core lubricants division were £58.7 million, against £60.3 million, although Castrol's earnings rose by 5 per cent on a constant currency basis. Good results came from Germany and Asia, particularly India and Thailand, but severe recessionary conditions affected Britain, America and Australia.

Gearing at the end of the period was 66 per cent, compared with a pro-forma 60 per cent, adjusted to include Fosco, at the last year-end. The interest charge rose from £12.3 million to £24.3 million.



"Worst trading since Seventies": Lawrence Urquhart

Vinten rises to £4.67m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

LOWER interest costs helped Vinten Group, the specialist optical, broadcast and camera equipment manufacturer, lift pre-tax profits to £4.67 million (£4.3 million) in the six months to end-June.

Trading profits slipped to £5.69 million (£5.87 million), but interest costs were reduced to £1.02 million (£1.57 million) while turnover stood at £31.2 million (£33.9 million). Earnings per share reached 10.3p (9.8p). The interim dividend is raised to 1.8p (1.7p).

Margins came under pressure at the broadcast division, but the company has acted to reduce the cost base. The military systems division had an "excellent first half".

The company said that an overall recovery is not yet in evidence in spite of some signs of improvement in America. The shares firmed 1p to 244p.

Tokyo banks vow 'no more scandal'

From REUTER IN TOKYO

THREE Japanese bank chiefs vowed to a parliamentary committee they would take steps to prevent a recurrence of recent banking scandals.

Analysts say the pledges are not only an attempt to regain public confidence but are part of a struggle for survival in an era of deregulation.

Mariko Kodama, at Mikuni, a Japanese rating agency, said: "Banks are facing growing risks amid deregulation. In the past, they could lend without seriously examining the creditworthiness of corporate customers, but cash-rich firms have turned to the securities market for funds, and banks must be more careful about their customer base."

The scandals at the banks have emerged in tandem with changes in the Japanese financial world - the greater ability of companies to raise funds in

securities markets instead of through bank loans, and the freeing of interest rates.

Toru Hashimoto, president of Fuji Bank, which is at the centre of a scandal involving forged documents used for collateral, told an upper house committee: "The progressive decontrol of interest rates has increased the cost of our fundraising... We felt we should raise returns, and so put excessive emphasis on increasing profits."

He was testifying with Yo Kurosawa, president of Industrial Bank of Japan (IBJ), and Sotaro Tatsuoka, president of Sumitomo Bank. Sumitomo has been criticised for an aggressive lending policy toward Itohan, a trading house, former executives of which are charged in connection with allegedly illegal art deals worth ¥55.7 billion (£242 million).

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3	Kwik Save	Food	
4	Macklow (A&J)	Property	
5	Newman Tons	Building Roads	
6	Devo's	Property	
7	Home	Building Roads	
8	Thames Water	Water	
9	Calsonic	Motors/Aircraft	
10	Bass	Breweries	
11	Yorkshire Water	Water	
12	Salvage (Chap)	Food	
13	Tesco	Food	
14	Costs Vivaldi	Devisory Stores	
15	Cowie (T)	Motors/Aircraft	
16	Fairway Group	Industrial L-R	
17	EMC	Electricals	
18	Widnes Hidge	Industrial S-Z	
19	BMG Co	Industrial L-R	
20	Miller Co	Electricals	
21	Auto Sec	Industrial L-R	
22	Ransomes	Property	
23	Gr Portland	Property	
24	Wicks	Devisory Stores	
25	Bellway	Building Roads	
26	Brindon	Industrial A-D	
27	Perry Co	Motors/Aircraft	
28	Johnson Cleaners	Industrial L-R	
29	MY Holdings	Industrial L-R	
30	Volca	Electricals	
31	Provident	Bank/Discount	
32	Broken Hill	Industrial A-D	
33	Blue Circle	Building Roads	
34	Consolidated	Breweries	
35	Consolidated	Industrial A-D	
36	Mann Brown	Industrial L-R	
37	More O'Farrell	Property/Air	
38	Fitzwilliam	Industrial L-R	
39	Severn Trent	Water	
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BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

UNDATED

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

INDEX-LINKED

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

BREWERIES

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

BUILDING, ROADS

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

ELECTRICITY

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

FINANCE, LAND

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

FOODS

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50

754	71	Gallard	53	56	-	5.7	6.0
755	80	Gibbs & Dwyer	53	56	-	5.7	6.0
829	203	Glenn (ML)	785	810	+3	94.6	13
119	55	Grubbs World	87	89	-	7.3	1.5
51	48	Harwin Int	50	52	-	4.3	1.5
1095	49	Harwood-Starr	50	52	-	4.3	1.5
67	71	Hawthorn	70	75	+	6.9	6.3
358	211	Hawthorn Williams	301	310	+	9.7	11.0
358	224	Hill & Hill	343	345	-	5.7	11.0
47	35	Hill Co	37	37	-	4.8	12.8
21	14	Holland Mfg	14	14	-	0.5	0.5
124	76	Jackson Johnson	85	85	-	8.0	8.0
80	84	Jarvis	82	82	+1	2.7	0.7

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was same at 91.0 (day's range 91.0).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Mid Rates for Sept 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 months				
Amsterdam	3,319.1-3,322.2	3,319.1-3,317.0	%-19p	%-19p	Argentina austral*	167.77-167.94S	Australia	1,571.18-1,273.20
Bombay	1,015.1-1,015.1	1,015.1-1,015.1	%-19p	%-19p	Australia dollar	2.1535-2.1589	Belgium	122.11-122.12
Copenhagen	11,349.1-11,350.4	11,349.1-11,349.3	11-19p	11-19p	Brazil cruzeiro	673.15-674.08	Canada (Gom)	58.75-58.78
Frankfurt	1,101.5-1,102.5	1,101.5-1,102.5	%-19p	%-19p	Cyprus pound	1.80-0.81	Denmark	1,141.1-1,141.1
London	251.94-252.46	251.94-252.33	84-119p	84-119p	Hong Kong dollar	7.1492-7.2025	Germany	8,710.0-8,710.50
Madrid	181.83-182.10	181.83-182.74	28-35p	28-35p	India rupee	32.924-32.928.40	Italy	9,502.5-9,507.5
Milan	218.94-220.18	218.94-220.18	28-35p	28-35p	Japanese yen	13.139-13.139	Japan	7,752.0-7,752.50
Montreal	1,899.4-1,899.9	1,899.4-1,899.31	0.23-0.23p	0.07-0.23p	Korean won	1.81-1.81p	Netherlands	1,539.1-1,539.1
New York	1,180.2-1,180.2	1,180.2-1,180.2	1.81-1.81p	1.81-1.81p	Malaya dollar	4.7040-4.7045	Portugal	2,138.2-1,136.80
Paris	1,899.4-1,899.9	1,899.4-1,899.31	0.23-0.23p	0.07-0.23p	Mexico peso	50p-51p	Spain	16.13-16.13
Stockholm	10,685.0-10,710.0	10,685.0-10,710.0	11-19p	11-19p	New Zealand dollar	2.9164-2.9233	Sweden	1,552.1-1,552.1
Tokyo	228.23-230.23	228.23-230.15	%-19p	%-19p	Singapore dollar	2.2062-2.2152	Switzerland	6,700.0-6,750.0
Vladivostok	10,685.0-10,710.0	10,685.0-10,710.0	11-19p	11-19p	S.Africa rand (R)	4.6828-5.5000	Taiwan	48.14-48.14
Vladivostok	10,685.0-10,710.0	10,685.0-10,710.0	11-19p	11-19p	S.Africa rand (R)	4.6828-5.5000	Singapore	1,718.1-1,719.0
Vladivostok	10,685.0-10,710.0	10,685.0-10,710.0	11-19p	11-19p	S.Africa rand (R)	4.6828-5.5000	Switzerland	106.15-106.15
Vladivostok	10,685.0-10,710.0	10,685.0-10,710.0	11-19p	11-19p	S.Africa rand (R)	4.6828-5.5000	Switzerland	106.15-106.15

Source: *Banker*

* Premium % per annum. % discount = % discount.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX

COCOA		COFFEE		SUGAR (FOX)	
Sep	712-710	Oct	538-537	C Cancellations	
Oct	712-714	Nov	538-541	Oct 297-043.0	
Nov	707-709	Dec	537-540	Nov 107-043.0	
Dec	706-708	Jan	537-540	Mar 132-041.0	
Jan	700-708	Feb	537-540	May 133-040.0	
Feb	695-697	Mar	537-540	Aug 132-040.0	
Mar	695-697	Apr	537-540	Oct 120-042.0	
Apr	695-697	May	537-540	Vol 2595	Vol 2595
May	695-697	Jun	537-540		
Jun	695-697	Jul	537-540		
Jul	695-697	Aug	537-540		
Aug	695-697	Sep	537-540		
Sep	695-697	Oct	537-540		
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Protect and survive the single market

By SALLY WATTS

SMALL firms in procurement, car retail and financial services - all possibly at risk in a single European market - can learn from new reports by Europe 2000 on how to protect their business.

Dr Jeremy Keenan, who started this consultancy and research service at Yeovil, Somerset, in 1989, said small procurement businesses would be hit in 1992 because nobody had told company executives what to expect and they were too busy to find out.

"They may be swamped by firms elsewhere in the EC that are taking 1992 more seriously and getting more help," he said. "It is a case of defending your patch by understanding what you must do to meet tender requirements."

The report, due later this month at £35, explains simply the "fairly complicated" legislation. A further report on the future of Europe's financial services, costing £295, reviews the services country by country and sector by sector. According to Dr Keenan, Britain has about 8,000 financial intermediaries - mostly small businesses that can survive only if they develop niche markets.

Selling Cars in Europe (£190 but half-price to motor dealers) analyses future trends in car retailing and includes a survey of British franchise dealers.

Subscribers to Europe 2000 pay £99 for ten copies a year of the



"I'm beginning to think this is the nearest I'll ever get to having a chauffeur."

Builder spreads his wings

By DEREK HARRIS

KEN Ward, a developer of retirement homes, who is based in Cheltenham, is bucking the trend in the construction industry. Business is "going like a train" at Pegasus Holdings, he says.

Mr Ward is now looking to a market flotation, probably next year. Last year, Pegasus, which Mr Ward, the managing director, founded in 1984, saw sales and profits rise by half. In the six months to June this year, turnover reached £4.65 million, more than double the sales in the same period of last year. Pre-tax profits were more than £600,000 for the half year (£300,000).

Originally a quantity surveyor, Mr Ward went into civil engineering and was one of several young entrepreneurs backed by Sir Emmanuel Kaye's Kaye Enterprises, a privately owned international group.

A successor organisation to Kaye Enterprises, Hart Ventures, whose board includes Sir Emmanuel, now has a controlling shareholding in Pegasus.

In the mid-Seventies, while Mr Ward was involved in housing association work, he first had the idea of providing retirement accommodation. By that time, other builders were already blazing a successful trail in the retirement sector.

Mr Ward said: "You could easily just copy what others do and then wonder why you don't sell. Other developers tend to go for uniform schemes; we look to



"Research is the secret": Ken Ward, the founder and managing director of Pegasus Holdings

something that fits with the environment."

An early Pegasus development in Cheltenham produced the town's first crescent of buildings for 150 years, adding a new-style layout to two regency-style main houses. That was a key development for his philosophy. "The first thing we built at Pegasus

Court, Cheltenham, was understanding. The secret is finding out what people really want, which means thorough research."

There are more than a dozen Pegasus developments around the country with 300 units already built and another 250 in the pipeline. Each Pegasus development has a resident admin-

istrator, who is always on call and a suite that can be used by visitors. A charitable trust has been set up to help any residents meeting financial problems.

Mr Ward said that in a difficult market, Pegasus would continue with its hands-on management style, looking to a steadily improving financial performance.

Small businesses in central and northern London could benefit from the counselling and training to be introduced by new Training and Enterprise Councils. A pilot scheme is being launched in each of the two areas sponsored by the Tecs. A full eight days of consultancy and training are on offer from £400 to £800 subsidised by Tec cash. Places are limited, especially for the pilots, with applications being accepted to mid-September. Details from HB Consulting on 071-323 3434.

Seminars on the theme *How to market yourself as an independent consultant* are being organised around the country next month. Seminar leader will be Tim Foster, whose most recent book is *101 Ways to Succeed as an Independent Consultant*. The seminars, run by the GMS consultancy, which specialises in executive leasing, are in Leeds (October 4), Watford (October 8), Leatherhead (October 14) and Bristol (October 16). Details: GMS, 48 High Street North, Dunstable, Beds LU6 1LA; phone 0582 666970.

A topical subject, Corporate Danger Signs in a Recession, is scheduled for the October 30 meeting of London Chamber of Commerce small business club. For small and larger businesses, the Chamber plans a conference on October 8 on European monetary union. It will examine whether British businesses will benefit and how EMU will affect current trading practices.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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TABLE TENNIS

ITTF keeps pace with demands of spectators

From DAVID MILLER in MATSUMOTO, JAPAN

WHEN Jorgen Persson, the men's table tennis world champion, or any of the leading players puts spin on the ball, it rotates, almost unbelievably, up to 170 times a second. When Taek Soo Kim, of South Korea, the Olympic champion, strikes his forehand cross-shot with both feet off the ground, the ball is travelling at 125 miles per hour.

The sport disparagingly known as ping pong has become one of the most technically advanced of ball games, so fast, as I have discovered at the second IOC President's Cup just concluded here in western Japan, that the unpractised eye cannot keep pace with the ball. Only the most experienced could accurately follow the rallies in the final, in which Kim beat Jan-Ove Waldner, of Sweden, by three games to one.

Ishiro Ogimura, of Japan, the president of the International Table Tennis Federation and former holder of 12 world titles, and his council are attempting to find ways that might reduce the spin factor and bring the sport back within reach of the average spectator, now that it is a fully-fledged event in the Olympic programme since 1988.

The degree of spin accelerated rapidly with refined chemical construction of bats in the Seventies and Eighties. For the benefit of lesser players, a slower bat, 20 per cent larger, is now used. But that does not solve the problem for championship play.

"The space element in tactics and the speed can still be seen and appreciated clearly enough," Ogimura said, "but it is the spin that is so deceptive for the viewer."

Since the days when the game was dominated by such fam-

ous internationals as Barna, Bergman, Fred Perry and later Ann Haydon (Mrs Jones as a Wimbledon champion), the size of the playing-area around the table has grown from 6 x 12 metres to 8 x 16 metres.

Table tennis is doing all it can to modernise its appeal. Bats are coloured, and reflects light, the players wear contrasting kit. The latest innovation is the use of microphones under the table to pick up the sound of the ball. Another improvement has been a uniform floor surface that helps the leading players find consistency and reduces knee and back injuries.

As in swimming, champions are becoming younger, aged 23 or under. Deng Yaping, the tiny, tirelessly attacking women's world champion from China, who won here, is aged 18. Persson is old at 24.

The number of players is, predictably, vast: more than 100 million worldwide, with 14 million in Japan alone, where there are a million tables. The Soviet Union (that was) has 200,000 clubs and three million players. China sells 100 million competition balls per year.

The tactics, because of the speed of the game, can be fascinating. Waldner was the cleverest of the men's finalists, but was ultimately overpowered by the remarkable physical tenacity of Kim, who, even at immense speed and with a tiny target, is able to put into his forehand the power of a lumberjack.

To do this requires an eye sharper — though with less bravery needed, perhaps — than when facing a West Indies pace attack. The medical department at Tokyo University is conducting a \$300,000 survey into two theories: that the mental-physical requirements of table tennis help increase the IQ of children, and that the game can also prolong the mental capacity of the elderly. If you or I stood at the end of the table against Kim, we literally would often never even see the ball.

The Japanese, old-fashioned in the way of so many of their manner, did not accept professionalism until two years ago. "When I was at the top," Ogimura said, "I was an amateur and all my opponents were professional."



Waldner: outfit in final



Women and machine: Aiken-Walker and Mallory prepare to do battle in November's Lombard RAC Rally

Women's teams speed to fore

FORGET all you have ever heard or thought about women drivers — a spin with Louise Aiken-Walker or Penny Mallory will soon put you right.

Sitting alongside Aiken-Walker, the women's world champion, is her team manager, Bill Gwynne, a champion of the Seventies who runs his own rally school near Buckingham.

"One good thing about the women is that if they don't know something they'll say so," Gwynne said. "Men won't admit they don't know and when they're learning most men won't accept that you've got to go slowly before you can go quickly. Women understand that."

In Gwynne's experience most women underestimate their skills and have to be encouraged to go faster and be more aggressive. Nobody

could say that of Mallory. She first started rallying at Gwynne's school 18 months ago and was bitten by the bug. From that moment on, she poured every spare minute and shilling into her new found passion. The only two things in her life are her driving and her design company, the Original Pink Convertible agency. More than once she has raced home from a rally to work through the night to finish an assignment.

She knows her weaknesses and recognises she still has a lot to learn. As she went through her paces, kicking up clouds of dust and gravel, Aiken-Walker, with 12 years at the top behind her, watched with a wary eye. "She's a bit over-enthusiastic," she said, "but she's improving as she goes round. It's easy here, there's room to swing around but in a rally you've got to be more precise or you're in the trees."

Aiken-Walker knows a bit about that. On her way to the world title last year, she went over a cliff in Portugal, fell 300 feet before landing, upside down, in a lake and sticking a further 20 feet. "By some miracle we escaped," she said. "We were seriously on our way out, we were dying." But what goes through your mind at a moment like that? "How to get out," Gwynne said. "That is where many races are won and lost — in the mind. 'You have to be competitive and aggressive,' Aiken-Walker said. "If you put a man and a woman in the same car, the woman will win if she is determined mentally. It's what you want in yourself — I wanted to win."

BOXING

McMillan adds lustre to reputation

By SHUKUMAR SEN

BOXING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER making easy work of yet another British opponent on Wednesday night at the York Hall, Bethnal Green, Colin McMillan intends to make one more defence of his British featherweight title, to secure the Lonsdale Belt, before moving on to bigger things. He will meet Sean Murphy on October 29.

After stopping Kevin Pritchard, of Liverpool, in seven rounds, McMillan said: "Now I am looking forward to fighting Sean Murphy to clinch the Lonsdale Belt. A lot of people

have written him off but he is still a dangerous puncher. Then, hopefully, I'll go for the European title in March."

While no venue has been fixed for the British title bout, a bigger hall than York Hall will almost certainly be needed. McMillan, who comes from Barking, and Murphy, from St Albans, both have a long list of wins and both stand to win the Lonsdale Belt outright.

Besides, even those so-called experts interested only in big men and heavyweights are beginning to realise that McMillan could just be as exciting and big a prospect as Barry McGuigan.

Certainly, the former World Boxing Association featherweight champion rates McMillan highly.

"He's a breath of fresh air," McGuigan said. "Just what British boxing needs. I am sure he can go all the way."

Frank Warren, the promoter of the show, said: "McMillan's the brightest prospect I've seen for a number of years. He stopped Pritchard in style, with body shots. To stop a man with body punches is a very good effort and he never gets hit, which is all about."

If Pritchard was bleeding from a cut by the right eye and

gauging for air after McMillan had run rings round him and dropped him for the fifth and last time, the champion himself was unmarked. Pritchard landed only one solid punch.

Clive McKenzie takes on Cesar Soto, a decidedly tough Mexican opponent, in the first defence of his World Boxing Organisation bantamweight title at the Lanchester Centre, Battersea, next Thursday. Sparring the option of an easy first defence, McKenzie, who chose his opponent himself, said: "You don't get recognition by beating up dummies. This will be a good fight."

The victory of Premier Touch in the Great St Wilfrid Handicap at Ripon last month has been referred by the stewards of the Jockey Club to its disciplinary committee.

The committee will enquire into the improvement shown by Premier Touch compared to his

RACING

Andrath bolsters leading owner's hand for St Leger

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

LADY Beaverbrook, this season's leading British owner, will be doubly represented in the Coallie St Leger at Doncaster tomorrow week as she seeks a third victory in the final classic of the year.

Andrath guaranteed his place in the field after making all the running to win the Go Racing in Yorkshire Maiden Stakes at York yesterday.

Originally entered as a pacer for Luchirovete, Lady Beaverbrook's other entry, Andrath will now run on his merits, Clive Brittain, trainer of the two horses, said afterwards.

Brittain is never afraid to pitch horses in at the deep end and won the St Leger in 1978 with Julio Mariner, a 28-1 shot. However, bookmakers appeared to be less than convinced about the chances of the lightly-raced Andrath posing a threat at Town Moor. He offered 100-1 after his win yesterday, compared to 16-1 against Luchirovete, who was runner-up in the Chester Vase and Freedom Stakes prior to winning the Churchill Stakes at Ascot.

Lady Beaverbrook won the St Leger with Bustino in 1974 and Minster Son in 1988 and a third win would cap a wonderful season which has included the victories of Mystiko in the 2,000 Guineas and Terimon in the International Stakes.

The problem facing Brittain is finding jockeys for both his runners. Michael Roberts, who partnered Andrath, is almost certain to ride Finance Dancer for Alec Stewart.

Andrath's win was the first leg of a 48-1 double for the Newmarket trainer. Hajalm has

come into his own since running over longer distances and won the Sun Life of Canada Garroby Handicap in comfortable style by three-and-a-half lengths.

Willie Ryan dismantled and told Brittain: "He's got a turn of foot. Keep going with him, Clive, he's a secret well hand-capped at the moment."

Brittain joked: "Hajalm has been unlucky. He has been trained by a stupid trainer who didn't know his correct distance."

Roberts was also in double duty as Takenhall justified Timeform's recent decision to remove the squiggle, referring to an unsatisfactory temperament, from his name by landing the Quintin Gilbey Silver Trophy.

Although the official going at the Keenewent was good to firm, Luca Cumani said Shama appreciated the give in the ground after winning the Reference Point Strensal Stakes by two-and-a-half lengths from St Niman.

Shama was beaten by Hyabla at Sandown last Friday but might reappear in the Prix de l'Opera at Longchamp on Arc day. "The French race is a far longer longer than at Sandown and that would suit her. They would not place at Sandown. If it is a truer run race we would have a chance," Cumani said.

Marju, whose racing career remains in the balance, sprung to prominence last year when winning the Huntingdon Stakes. John Dmlop, whose juveniles are back in good form, again produced the winner of the race yesterday when the Alasarn, a son of Danzig, hung on by a neck from Petronia.

Munro avoids injury in Salisbury tumble

ALAN Munro escaped with just a few scratches after taking a bad-looking fall in the early stages of the Danbury Claiming Stakes at Salisbury yesterday.

There were gasps from the large crowd as Munro and Red Sombrero parted company but the Derby-winning jockey managed to curl up and roll over like a ball, eventually coming to rest on the far side of the running rail.

Munro recovered sufficiently quickly to be able to attend the stewards' enquiry with Alan Morris, rider of Lord Belmonte, who appeared to cross Munro's mount, causing the fall four furlongs out. The stewards took no action.

Victory went to Blockade, a

39th winner of the season for in-form Newmarket trainer Michael Bell.

Alto, Jans, reportedly one of Guy Harwood's best two-year-olds, earned a possible tilt at the group one Prix Marcel Bousseat at Longchamp next month when making a winning debut in the first division of the Qudd-hampton Maiden Fillies Stakes.

Another impressive two-year-old winner was the Dick Hern-trained Bama, who returned to form in the Dick Pools Stakes when beating High Sevens by one-and-a-half lengths.

Lester Egan, successful on Bama, completed a near 16-1 double on Balamon for Martin Pipe in the Salisbury Festival Handicap.

Ripon winner referred

THE victory of Premier Touch in the Great St Wilfrid Handicap at Ripon last month has been referred by the stewards of the Jockey Club to its disciplinary committee.

The committee will enquire into the improvement shown by Premier Touch compared to his

previous run at Doncaster three weeks earlier.

The Ripon stewards referred the matter to the Jockey Club because a tape of the Doncaster race was not available. Premier Touch, ridden by Alan Greaves, took £80,000 out of the ring when winning the Ripon race.

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Waqar breaks Hampshire captain's finger

Nicholas's injury ends bad day for Hampshire

By JOHN WOODCOCK

THE OVAL (third day of four): Surrey (23pts) bt Hampshire (4) by 171 runs

HAMPSHIRE could hardly have had a more disastrous visit to the Oval. Not only were they outplayed by Surrey, almost from first to last, but yesterday they lost their captain, Mark Nicholas, who had a finger broken by Waqar Younis, an injury that is virtually certain to keep him out of the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's tomorrow between the same sides.

This is a dreadfully hard luck. Hampshire may not have looked remotely like a side that had won five of its previous seven championship matches, but they were entitled to a less meretricious pitch, especially one prepared by Harry Brind, the club's man himself. It made for a more interesting, eventful match than those in which runs are being scored at ten a penny, but it did nothing for four-day cricket.

The ball which nailed the little finger of Nicholas's left hand in Waqar's second over yesterday behaved as it did because of the pitch, being not much short of a length and lifting sharply. Nicholas came forlornly off, left the ground for an x-ray, and knew the worst by the time Hampshire had been beaten by 171 runs. In trying to exploit the bounce in the pitch at the other end, Murphy was relatively innocuous. Whatever the conditions, Waqar's attack without Nicholas was as shrewd as any.

Nicholas has worked hard for seven years to take Hampshire to the final of the

	P	W	Pts (Max)
Warwickshire	20	9	254 (300)
Essex	19	8	248 (312)
Derbyshire	18	8	237 (301)
Surrey	20	8	233 (281)
Nottingham	19	6	213 (277)

Including bonus points from matches in progress

premier one-day competition, and now that he has done so he gives himself "not a hope in hell" of playing. Assuming he does not play, Hampshire will presumably be captained by Paul Terry or David Gower. Terry felt sufficiently uneasy with the vice-captaincy last season to give it up. Gower, for his part, won the Benson and Hedges Cup as Leicestershire's captain in 1983. On the only occasion this season when Nicholas has been missing, Christopher Smith had charge, and he, of course, is now on the other side of the world.

Had Smith been informed of Nicholas's injury yesterday as soon as it happened, and decided that he would have to help out, the best he could have done would have been to arrive at Heathrow at six o'clock tomorrow morning. The Thursday flight from Perth, Western Australia, arriving this morning, had already left. It is unlikely, anyway, that he could have been prevailed upon. But limited-over cricket is a very different game from the one the sides have just been playing at the Oval. Lord's is a very different pitch, and Waqar will be renowned for bowling 12 overs. As a Hampshire man, born and bred, I am far from unhelpful.

Unsubstantiated as this Oval pitch was, the reason why

Surrey won so conclusively was because in Waqar they had far and away the best bowler on either side. While he was taking 12 wickets for 72 runs, the other three opening bowlers in the match took nine wickets between them at 35 runs apiece, which suggests a perfectly reasonable balance between bat and ball. Waqar's six for 47 in Hampshire's second innings took to 12 (in 16 matches) the number of times he has collected five or more in the championship this season. His overall total is 104 at an average of 15.01.

Amid the rubble of Hampshire's batting stood one outstanding performance, and that was by James. Arriving in the second over of their second innings, he was still there when Auld was last out yesterday, having survived for just over three hours without giving a chance. Once again it was the case of a left-hander managing to cope better with the problems of great pace, partly through causing the bowler to alter his pattern.

WAGQAR'S FIRST INNING (25.00 J. Storer 135, M.A. Lynch 51, J.R. Auld 4 for 47)
Second innings 187 (D.J. Bicknell 54)
HAMPSHIRE'S FIRST INNING 119 (Waqar Younis 6 for 45, M.A. Parnham 4 for 38)
Second innings

V.P. Terry c Lynch b Waqar	2
T.C. Middleton b Murphy	43
K.D. James not out	4
R.A. Smith c Stewart b Gilling	21
D.I. Gower c Stewart b Waqar	9
R.J. Meacham c Ward b Faithfull	1
M.C. J. Nicholas retired hurt	13
J.R. Auld b Waqar	23
J.A. M. James c Gilling b Waqar	4
K.J. Shum b Waqar	25
Aldi b Waqar	2
James (R.A.) b Waqar	11
Total	166

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-19, 3-22, 4-57, 5-111, 6-119, 7-146, 8-152.
SLOW IN: Waqar 19.00-1: Waqar Younis 16.43-47; Faithfull 51-11; Gilling 41-41; Meacham 24-24; Lynch 30-13.0.
Umpires: J.H. Harris and R.C. Titchard.



On his knees: McGimpsey's birdie attempt on the 18th green goes astray

Portmarnock: Par 72 (133 yards): Outward nine - 36 (3,530 yards); Inward nine - 36 (3,503 yards)																		
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Yards	390	380	383	443	400	600	194	401	436	372	429	150	595	363	182	525	470	419
Par	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4
Foursomes (Great Britain and Ireland names first)																		
J. Milligan, G. Hay	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
P. McGimpsey, B. May	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
J. Payne, G. Evans	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
D. Duval, M. Spence	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
G. McGimpsey, R. Williams	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
M. Vokes, D. Egan	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
P. McGimpsey, P. Harrington	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
J. Stiel, A. Doyle	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Foursomes result: Great Britain and Ireland 4, United States 4																		
Singles																		
A. Collett	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
P. McGimpsey	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
J. Payne	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
F. Langham	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
G. Evans	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
D. Duval	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
R. Williams	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
B. May	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
G. McGimpsey	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
M. Spence	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
P. McGimpsey	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
A. Doyle	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
G. Hay	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
T. Schreier	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
L. White	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
J. Stiel	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Shingles result: Great Britain and Ireland 4, United States 4																		
Match positions: Great Britain and Ireland 4, United States 4																		
W: won, C: conceded																		

Champion's exit comes in straight sets

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN NEW YORK

JIM Courier joined Stefan Edberg in the men's semi-finals of the US Open tennis championships yesterday. The French Open champion beat Pete Sampras, the defending champion, in straight sets, Sampras's first defeat at Flushing Meadows since the fourth round two years ago. Before yesterday, Courier had not won a set from his old friend in three meetings.

Sampras's supremacy has rested on the overwhelming power of his service. He served 100 aces last year, has been clocking up the aces regularly this year too, but yesterday he was comprehensively beaten at his own game by Courier, who served 14 aces, two of them to finish off the first and second sets, to Sampras's nine. The bitter bit. So solid was Courier's serving and so dominant his groundstrokes, that Sampras's first break point took two hours and 15 minutes. He missed it and when the No. 4

seed had a match point shortly after, it was just a matter of time before Sampras's year as champion had ended. He held on until the 66-break, but Courier kept his concentration and his nerve to win 6-2, 7-6, 7-6 in two hours and 54 minutes. Nine double-faults hardly helped Sampras's cause. "I was under pressure the whole time," he said.

With Gabriela Sabatini already gone, Sampras's exit confirms that there will be two different champions this year, even though Martina Navratilova might be a little surprised to find herself on the verge of her eighth US Open

final at the age of 34. Just two months ago, after an emotional but telling defeat by Jennifer Capriati in the quarter-final of Wimbledon, she was questioning her desire to continue.

The answer, judging by her spritely progress to today's semi-final with Steffi Graf, is a clear and unequivocal "yes". In fact, fortified by the exploits of that other ageing wonder, Jimmy Connors, she gets a trifle piqued by mention of retirement.

"Do I look like I'm being pushed aside?" she asked after her three-set win over Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the quarter-final.

US women's tennis: seeded players in capitals
IN A SANCHEZ-VICARIO (Sp), 6-7, 7-6, 6-2

Men's singles
QUARTER-FINALS: S. Edberg (Swe) bt J. Sanchez (Sp), 6-3, 6-2, 6-3;
J. Courier (US) bt P. Sampras (US), 6-2, 7-6, 7-6; M. Stich (Ger) bt L. Davenport (US), 6-3, 6-3, 4-3 (match suspended because of rain).

Men's doubles
SEMI-FINALS: S. Davis and D. Pate bt K. Flach and R. Seguso, 7-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Women's singles
QUARTER-FINALS: M. Navratilova

Women's doubles
QUARTER-FINALS: P. Shriver and N. Zvereva (USSR) bt K. Adams and M. Bollogh (Aust), 6-4, 6-0; M. J. Fernandez and Z. Garrison (US) bt E. Faraco (SA) and A. Smith, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3.

Mixed doubles
SEMI-FINALS: M. Bollogh (Aust) and T. Nijssen (Neth) bt E. Faraco and C. van Rensburg (SA), 6-4, 7-6, 6-4; A. Sanchez-Vicario and E. Sanchez-Vicario (Sp) bt J. Davenport (US) and L. Warder (Aust), 6-2, 6-2.

Simon Barnes, page 36

Mickelson is centre of controversy

FROM MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT,
IN PORTMARNOCK

A WRETCHED start by Great Britain and Ireland to their defence of the Walker Cup at Portmarnock yesterday spilled over into controversy when Andrew Coltart launched a scathing attack on Phil Mickelson as the United States took a commanding 6-4 lead.

Coltart, the Scottish strokeplay champion, was incensed by Mickelson's attitude and especially with his actions on the 9th green. There, Coltart refused to give an inch, or more precisely, a putt of 16 inches, and Mickelson, clearly peeved at being required to hole out, reacted with an act of showmanship.

The American demonstrated he regarded Coltart's decision to be a parsimonious one as he held his putter over the line of the putt to show the spectators how short he saw it to be. The spectators seemed amused, but Coltart was not.

Coltart said: "He's an arrogant so-and-so. There is no place for that kind of behaviour in an event like this. It's not needed. It's taking the mickey out of an opponent. I was three down. I couldn't give the putt to him. I've seen Seve miss from that distance."

Coltart, of course, should also be aware, especially as he is on the threshold of moving to the professional ranks, that Ballsteroes can intimidate opponents and Mickelson most certainly has the reputation to do exactly that at this level.

Coltart admitted to being nervous. "I didn't know where I was for the first five holes," he said. Mickelson most certainly knew where he was throughout the day. When told of Coltart's outburst, he said: "I was just joking. It was meant as fun. If he's offended, I'll say sorry."

Mickelson later agreed to a further apology, sought by the Irish ambassador for the United States after a chance remark was heard live on American television.

Mickelson, who had hooked a shot into the rough, was

heard to say: "That's not the place to be - the Irish women are not attractive."

The ESPN broadcasting company switchboard was jammed by phone calls and Mickelson immediately agreed to record an apology that will go out today.

It is a pity that Coltart, who lost 4 and 3, saw red. This was neither the time, nor the place, to be so expansive. He would have been better advised to have gritted his teeth, especially with today ahead, because that is what all Great Britain and Ireland must now do.

Jim Payne, Gary Evans, Garth McGimpsey and the resilient Garry Hay kept alive the faint hope of a successful defence by winning their singles after the morning four-somes, which were lost 4-0, had naturally drained confidence.

Mickelson and Bob May, a graduate from Oklahoma State University, beat Jim Milligan and Hay 5 and 3. Milligan suggested with an authoritative approach to four feet for a birdie at the 5th that he and Hay might recover from a nervous start. It was not to be, and like Paul McGinley and Padraig Harrington, who lost 2 and 1 to Jay Sigel and Allen Doyle, they did not lead at any stage.

The other two foursomes swung crucially and cruelly against Great Britain and Ireland on the 18th green. Mike Sposa had every reason to receive a high five from David Duval, his partner, after coaxing home a putt of 30 feet for a birdie to deny Evans and Payne. Mitch Vokes, the US Amateur champion, and David Egan were more fortunate as Garth McGimpsey and Ricky Williams, one-up with three holes to play, succumbed by taking three putts.

SECOND-DAY DRAW (US names first): Foursomes: M. Vokes and D. Egan v J. Milligan and G. McGimpsey; D. Duval and M. Spence v J. Payne and G. Evans; P. McGinley and T. Schreier v G. Evans and A. Coltart; P. McGinley and B. May v L. White and P. Harrington; G. Evans and A. Coltart v J. Milligan and G. McGimpsey; G. Hay and J. Stiel v J. Milligan and G. McGimpsey; Vokes v G. Hay.

Payne recovers his composure

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PORTMARNOCK

JIM Payne, from Lincolnshire, had the chance to be Kipling-escape in his outlook at Portmarnock yesterday as he encountered both triumph and disaster on the first day of the Walker Cup.

There is no one better suited than Payne to treat those two golfing impostors just the same. A young man of capable nature, calm enough to play with Jack Nicklaus on the last day of the Open and outscore him - an experience he found helpful here - he recovered from the disappointment of losing his foursomes to win the first British and Irish point by beating Franklin Langham in the singles.

In the morning, Payne and Gary Evans, three down after seven holes against David Duval and Mike Spence, were one up with three to play when Payne hit a wild hook off the

16th tee and buried his partner in the rough. "That cost us the match," was Payne's honest assessment, although it was Sposa's 30-foot birdie putt at the last that won the point.

Payne coped with his disappointment by going out in 34, two under par, to be four up on Langham. "I played about as well as I can play on the first nine," Payne said. "I'd step up to the ball and the next thing it would be near the hole."

In that period, he had four birdies and dropped two shots - at the 2nd, where he bunkered his drive, and at the 9th, where he missed a two-foot putt.

Payne started to be haunted by that miss when Langham birdied three of the next four holes. An exquisite chip from the hollow to the left of the 15th green and Mike Spence saved his par and go two up again, and two pairs were then enough.

Jordan fail in bid for injunction

JORDAN, the Formula One motor racing team, failed to get a High Court ruling in its favour yesterday to stop Michael Schumacher, the German driver, driving for Benetton at the Italian grand prix in Monza on Sunday.

Jordan alleged Schumacher was in breach of his contract, but after a two-hour private hearing in London, Mr Justice Mantel refused to grant an injunction banning him from driving for anyone else.

Unless Jordan appeals, the decision will mean that Schumacher, who was familiarising himself with the Benetton car on Silverstone's test circuit on Wednesday, will drive for the Italian team on Sunday. The loss of Schumacher is a further blow for Jordan, who lost Bertrand Gachot, the Belgian driver, who was jailed for assault.

Simon Barnes, page 36



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